

Editorial

Redefining 'Manipuri'

In what can only be described as an incidental albeit positive outcome, the recently intensifying social turmoil has brought out various issues and agenda plaguing the state for as long as one would care to remember. While the situation at present has been perceived as precarious and even threatening to the peaceful and continued coexistence of the myriad communities and ethnic groups in the state, the fact remains that such social churning is required at times to separate fact from fiction- to segregate and isolate genuine concerns that should be resolved for the society to progress as a collective and harmonious unit from those concocted by a few vested interests and projected as genuine and non-negotiable, often utilizing the caste and communal card to stir up misled emotions. Also one can only conjecture on the much touted claim of a 'unique history' that has been the pivot of every demand and contention. Is there degrees to uniqueness? Or, has the term been confused with 'mysterious' all these while? A confounding contention which fortunately will never arise in the state since our forefathers chronicled the history of the land and its people more than a thousand years before the birth of Jesus Christ in the Puya scripture. Whatever the past- written or conceived, holding back progress and modernization, not only of oneself but for those in the vicinity lends precious little to pragmatism. In this day and age, would it be possible to shed our modern clothes and shelter and return to our hunting-gathering ways in the wild? Or more important- is anyone amongst us claiming to be the upholder of tradition and customs be really prepared to live out their claim? The only plausible explanation for the present contentions and convoluted issue is that customs, traditions, beliefs or culture is within us. It is our way of thinking and therefore our outlook of life. All these are attributes and tying them down to the land we exist on would very well spell doom in the practical world. If one who regards himself or herself so steeped in tradition that any other way of life is impossible have to be relocated somewhere else, will he or she cease to belong to their community or group? Or will she/he cease to exist because of the relocation? Or stranger still, should he/she demand the place to where he/she is relocated be merged with her/his native place just to make him/her be themselves? And where does such an attitude leave the room for 'peaceful coexistence' with the rest of the communities? Is such an outlook even permissible in today's world? Debate, dialogue, deliberate or differ as much as one like. The integrity of Manipur is sacrosanct for the Manipuris contributing and assimilating their different customs, outlooks, faiths, practices and cultures to create this beautiful kaleidoscope which is the envy of the world. Understanding, accepting and respecting this concept would prove more fruitful for everyone involved rather than to try and play spoilsport.

CCTNS Digital Police Portal launched to fast-track Criminal Justice System in the Country

By : Deepak Razdan

As crime continues to grow, and criminals turn tech-savvy, police investigators across States face a tough challenge to bring the law-breakers to justice. The situation is, however, undergoing a revolutionary change. The Digital Police Portal launched by the Government of India as part of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), in August this year, will not only help police sleuths track the criminals fast, but also help the victims seek redress online. The total IPC crimes in the country increased from 28.51 lakh in 2014 to 29.49 lakh 2015. According to the Union Home Ministry's latest annual report (2016-17), the share of IPC crimes to total cognizable crimes in percentage terms was 37.2 per cent in 2011, and it increased to 40.3 per cent in 2015. The crime rate, which shows the number of crimes per one lakh population, too increased from 497.9 in 2012 to 581.8 in 2015. In such a complex scenario, the Digital Police Portal, with its various features, is expected to be a game-changer. The CCTNS portal will provide investigators the complete record history of any criminal from anywhere across the country. Equipped with a Google-type Advance Search engine and ability to give analytical reports, the portal is expected to become the backbone of the country's criminal justice system. For the State Police organisations and investigating agencies like the CBI, IB, ED and NIA, the Digital Police Portal provides a National Database of crime and criminals with facility for 11 searches and 44 reports. This will improve national security and revolutionise the way police works in the country. To citizens, the Digital Police Portal offers online facility to register FIRs. There will be initially seven

Public Delivery Services in 34 States & UTs, like Person and Address Verification of employees, tenants, nurses etc; permission for hosting Public Events, Lost & Found Articles and Vehicle theft. The portal will turn criminal investigations completely citizen-friendly affair. The citizens' reports and requests are forwarded to State and Union Territory Police without loss of time for follow-up action. In 2004, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) initiated a project named- Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA) as a component of the "Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF)" project, aiming at computerization of crime records in police stations on a stand-alone basis. The need for setting up of a national database of crime records was realized later, and the MHA introduced a Central sector project of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) in 2009, with the objective of inter-linking all police Stations under a common application software for the purpose of investigation, policy making, data analytics, research and providing Citizen Services. The project provided the State Police officials with a platform to enter Crime & Criminal data onto a CCTNS application, which could be accessed any time through State database at State Data Centre as well as at National Database at National Data Centre (NDC). The total approved outlay of the CCTNS project is Rs. 2000 Crore. The Central government provides funds to States and Union Territories towards hardware, CCTNS software, connectivity, system integration, data entry of legacy data, project management manpower and training. The Centre has released to States Rs 1450 crores out of which Rs 1086 crores have been spent by the States and UTs. At present, the CCTNS software is deployed at 14284 Police Stations

of the 15398 Police Stations covered under the scheme. A total of 13775 Police Stations out of 14284 Police Stations are using this software to enter FIRs 100 per cent. As many as 13439 Police Stations out of the 15398 Police Stations covered by the scheme are already connected and linked with State & National database of Crime and Criminal records. The total number of FIRs registered using CCTNS leapt from less than 1.5 lakhs in March 2014 to about 1.25 crores before June, 2017, registering a jump of almost 100 times. Thirty-four States and UTs have launched their State Citizen Service portals with key services such as reporting a crime, request for verification, permission for events etc. Thirty-five out of 36 States and UTs are sharing data with National Crime and Criminal database. The system has seven crore records for crime and criminal data including 2.5 cr FIR records and legacy data. The scope of the CCTNS project has been enhanced to integrate the Police data with other pillars of the criminal justice system namely — Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, Forensics and Fingerprints and juvenile homes, and accordingly a new system — "Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)" has been developed. The ICJS system has been developed as a dashboard approach with an advance search facility for the purpose of retrieving the desired data from the system. The ICJS project is being monitored by a Working Group chaired by a Supreme Court judge, Mr Justice Madan B. Lokur. State police organisations and all investigating agencies have been greatly empowered by the Digital Police Portal. The portal provides 11 searches and 44 reports based on CCTNS National database. The advanced search is equipped with high performing search and analytics engine. The advanced

search can be carried out in two ways. In the first way of search, the search engine will look for full names entered (for eg. Name and Relative Name) but will get all the records where one or both of these names exist. In the second way of searching, it also fetches records with partial matches and returns all the results. There are various kinds of filters available on the portal through which data can be sorted and narrowed down. Search can be carried out through Person Name, Person and Relative Name, Person and Act/Section, free text search and exact search on FIR Regd. Number/ Mobile Number/Email. The CCTNS portal will provide investigators the complete record history of any criminal from anywhere across the country. The software offers Google-type Advance Search engine and analytical reports. Recently, the software was used to trace few mentally challenged women from Tamil Nadu in Uttarakhnad and reunited with their families. The CCTNS database will be later linked with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) database on vehicle registrations. The "Advanced Search" allows the user to find crime correlations, crime trends, outliers (anomalies) and crime patterns by having access to CCTNS dashboard. Since the launch of the Digital Police Portal, citizens have begun registering complaints on the portal, and requests have been made for antecedent verification of persons. The Digital Police Portal is helping the Government in the efficient delivery of citizen-centric services in a friendly manner, which is an important responsibility of a modern welfare state today. Deepak Razdan, is a senior journalist and at present Editorial Consultant, The Statesman, New Delhi. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

Texas Tech Police officer killed, suspect in custody

AP Lubbock, Oct. 10: Police apprehended a 19-year-old student accused of fatally shooting a Texas Tech University police officer+ at the campus police station Monday night. University officials issued an alert saying the suspect was taken into custody and that the campus lockdown order had been lifted. In an earlier statement, the university identified the suspect as Hollis Daniels. University spokesman Chris Cook said that campus police made a student welfare check Monday evening and — upon entering the room — found evidence of drugs and drug paraphernalia. Officers then brought the suspect to the police station for standard

debriefing. While at the station, Cook said the suspect pulled out a gun and shot an officer in the head, killing him. The suspect then fled on foot before being apprehended a short time later. Texas Tech officials initially issued a lockdown alert to students on social media, urging those on campus "to take shelter in a safe location." Additional information was not immediately available. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a statement about the shooting late Monday, saying "hearts go out to the family of the police officer killed." Abbott also said he had mobilized state law enforcement resources to aid in the investigation.

International and National News

Rohingya boat toll rises to 23 as more bodies found

AFP Cox's Bazar, Oct 10: The bodies of another nine refugees have washed up in Bangladesh after an overloaded boat carrying scores of desperate Rohingya sank in rough seas, police said today, taking the confirmed death toll to 23. Eight bodies were found on the banks of the Naf river, which separates Bangladesh from Myanmar, and another was found miles away on the island of St Martin. More than half of the victims in the

latest disaster were children, said Mian Uddin, police chief for the border town of Teknaf. He could not say how many people were missing, but survivors and officials have said the boat was carrying between 60 and 100 people. So far 15 have been rescued by Bangladesh coast guards and border guards, though authorities say some may have swum to Myanmar. More than half a million refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since

August 25, fleeing a military crackdown that followed attacks by Rohingya militants on police posts. The exodus had slowed, but in recent days government officials say there have been thousands of fresh arrivals, most coming from parts of Myanmar's Rakhine state that are far from the border with Bangladesh. Many cross the Naf river at its narrowest point, but others are attempting to make the journey by sea, boarding often rickety fishing

trawlers that are wholly inadequate for the rough waters in the Bay of Bengal. Nearly 160 have drowned. Among the latest influx were two young boys aged two and three, who died due to hunger and exhaustion as they entered Bangladesh. "Their parents told us that they died due to starvation. They walked seven days and did not have anything to eat," Sultan Ahmed, a local councillor at Anjumanpara border village, told AFP.

1996 Sonipat bomb blasts: Lashkar bomb expert Tunda gets life term

Indian Express Chandigarh, Oct. 10: A Haryana local court awarded life imprisonment to alleged Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) bomb expert Abdul Karim alias Tunda on Tuesday in the 1996 Sonipat bomb blasts case. A penalty of Rs 1 lakh has also been imposed on the convict. On Monday, the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat, Dr Sushil Garg, convicted Tunda under Sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 120 B (conspiracy) of the IPC. He was also convicted under section 3 of the Explosives Act. Tunda's lawyer Ashish Vats said they would challenge the district court's verdict before the High Court. Tunda, 75, was among the 20 terrorists that India had asked Pakistan to hand over after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, believed to be the brainchild of LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed. Tunda was arrested by the Delhi Police from Banbasa near the India-Nepal

border on August 16, 2013 and is suspected to have been involved in 40 blast cases across the country. Two bombs went off at different locations in Sonipat on December 28, 1996. While nobody had died in the blasts, around 15 persons were injured. A case against unidentified people was registered at the City Police Station, Sonipat, on the complaint of one Sajjan Singh. Tunda of Ghaziabad, Mohammad Shakeel Ahmed of Uttar Pradesh's Pillaikhuwa town and Mohammad Amir Khan of Delhi were identified as accused in the case after an investigation. Khan and Ahmed were arrested in 1998 but were let off in 2002 for want of evidence. In the course of the trial, as many as 43 witnesses appeared in the court. Tunda had pleaded during the trial that he was in Pakistan at the time of the blasts. "After the Mumbai blasts of 1993, Tunda's home at Ghaziabad was searched. Out of fear, he had gone to Pakistan," Vats said.

3 medical college teachers booked for sexual assault

PFI Odisha, Oct 10: Three teachers of a state run medical college and hospital were booked by the police on the charge of sexual assault and harassment of a student from Jharkhand. Police today said a case has been registered against a senior resident, an associate professor and the head of the department of the dental wing of the SCB Medical College and Hospital here. The second year post-graduate student lodged a written complaint with the police against the three teachers yesterday. They have been booked under various IPC Sections including 354 (assaulting a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 294 (obscene acts) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), police said. In her complaint, the student said she had been sexually assaulted by the senior resident and the associate professor for the past several days. When the woman brought this to the notice of the head of the department

on Sunday, he misbehaved with her instead of helping her, she alleged. The three accused were yet to be arrested. **Fake currency notes act as oxygen to terrorism: Rajnath** **PFI New Delhi, Oct 10:** High quality fake currency notes act as oxygen to terrorism, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said today. Inaugurating the new headquarters of the National Investigation Agency here, he said no civilised country can accept the growth of terrorism on its soil. He also termed terrorism a "curse" that no civilised country can accept. "Fake currency contributes to the rise of terrorism and high quality fake currency notes act as oxygen to terrorism," he said.

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