

Editorial

The good, the bad and the ugly

Manipur is changing. Night life euphoria is spreading to the many people who have been eagerly waiting for about 5 decades. The blundered relationship between various ethnic communities of the state has been streamline. Peoples' aspiration to make Manipur free from violence, bandh and blockade is becoming to reality. The good people in the government are somehow going to the right direction in this short period of 6 months. Above this, the contribution of the players for the country from this little state has once more proved that, no force in the world can suppress the state if the regalia continue.

India is a big country, some political expert sometimes term it as a sub continent resided by over 2000 ethnic communities who speaks different languages. And the country is recognised as the largest democratic country in the world. In a vast land, like India there will be differences of ideas between groups of peoples, between political parties and ethnic communities. For over 60 years - say after the merger of the erstwhile kingdom Manipur to the Indian Union on October 15, 1949, there were nothing worth appreciation in the running of the government as the nature which those in the government of that time follow the British style of ruling people. Some years back, few people who had seen the British ruled that time were sometimes heard stating that the administration of that time was better than today. Such statement was in relevance with the rise of corruption these days.

Now with the changing of time, there comes up many good people who whole heartedly want to work for the people of the state. What is worrying is the presence of the bad and ugly people.

Every effort make by the good people are always targeted by the bad people by using or instigating the ugly people. There are many things left to be done to show that people in the present government are good people. However, at the same time there are few things seen and witnessed taken up by the government. It is a reminder that these few things taken up by the good people in the government appeared as a throne to the bad and ugly people.

This is being brought up because Imphalites had witnessed a bomb blast in the close proximity of Imphal Evening on Oct 8, at the time when people are preparing to relax for few hours at Imphal Evening. A blast is certainly a handy work of some bad people and may have been done using ugly people- who knows. But what is more surprising is that why no further investigation is being carried out to find those involved in the blast. 5 days later another blast occurred at Tera Lukhram Leirak, when some locals of the area are preparing for Mela. 11 persons including 2 minors sustained injury. A group called KCP (PWG) had claimed responsibility for the terrorist act and the matter seem to be closed soon after the claimed. Why the individuals involved in such terror activities let free? Why no investigation to punished them are being taken up? Are there some bad people in the government?

It is a fact, that the claimed comes through media houses using email. Tracing a place where the email has been sent is not a problem in today's world. There were instances of persons arrested from Hyderabad for sending threat emails to the Prime Minister of India. That happen 2/3 years back. When the police have a cyber crime unit with sophisticated equipments, why the place where the email has been sent has not been traced and arrested.

Its time the good in the government flushed out the bad and the ugly people. And common people like us will surely make every effort to change the bad and the ugly people to change their mind.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Poireinganba Thangjam, of Matai Makha Leikai, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East district, Post Office - Mantripukhri, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name Th Poireinganba Meitei, as I have assumed my new name Poireinganba Thangjam.

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Taking Care of Artisans and Weavers

Over 1.20 lakh weavers and artisans to benefit through ongoing HastakalaSahyogShivirs in 421 handloom-handicrafts clusters

By : Parul Chandra

India boasts of a rich tradition of hand-woven textiles and skillfully made handicrafts that draws appreciation and buyers not only from within the country but also abroad. Be it the intricately woven Ikats from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the Patan Patolas from Gujarat, the fine Benarasi weaves from Uttar Pradesh, the gossamer-like Maheshwari weaves of Madhya Pradesh or the figurines sculpted in wood or stone from Tamil Nadu—India has this and much more to offer to the world in terms of handlooms and handicrafts.

The weavers and artisans in India toil hard to produce a rich variety of textiles and handicrafts. And yet, the earnings of those weaving magic through the warp and the weft or handicrafts are often not commensurate with the intensive labour, immense skill and cost of raw materials that goes into their making.

Largely based in rural India, weavers and artisans also find market access for their products difficult. As a consequence, they're dependent on the middleman to sell their products—while they garner substantial profits, the weaver and artisans are left with just a pittance instead of getting a reasonable price. In order to address the myriad challenges faced by weavers and artisans, the Union Textiles Ministry has been taking numerous steps to assist them. As part of these measures, the ministry is currently holding an 11-day 'HastakalaSahyogShivir'. The camps which began on October 7 are being held across the length and breadth

of the country. The initiative is dedicated to the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Garib Kalyan Varsh—the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal is being observed.

The camps have been organised in over 200 handloom clusters and Weavers Service Centres as well as 200 handicraft clusters in the country. They are spread over 372 places in 228 districts to reach out to a large number of weavers and artisans.

The Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani in a tweet last month had said: "More than 1.20 lakh weavers/artisans will benefit through the HastakalaSahyogShivirs that will be held in 421 handloom-handicrafts clusters." Among the states where the camps are being held are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, UP and West Bengal.

Well aware of the difficulties a weaver or artisan faces in accessing credit—it is so essential to purchase raw materials for their product or to upgrade their technology, for instance the looms—the Textiles ministry has kept the primary focus of these camps on providing credit facilities to them.

As part of this endeavour, the camps are providing weavers and artisans services such as issuance of credit facilities through the government's MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) which

provides financial assistance to micro enterprises.

In addition, participants at these camps will also be provided with assistance for technology upgradation under the HathkargaSamvardhanSahayata and to buy modern tool kits and equipment. Under the Hathkarga scheme, the government helps weavers buy new looms with bearing 90 per cent of the cost. Importantly, the camps will also see the Pehchan (Identity) cards being issued to weavers and artisans.

With market access for their products being one of the major hurdles faced by weavers and artisans, expos/craft bazars/buyers-sellers meets too are being held at some of the camps.

Yet another important element of these camps is that a Yarn Pass-Book is being issued to weavers as yarn is the main raw material for weavers.

Further, recognising the importance of education for the children of weavers and artisans, the camps will also be providing assistance on how they can be enrolled into courses run by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and IGNOU.

In its efforts to eliminate the middleman, the Textiles Ministry has been assisting weavers and artisans sell their products directly by helping them to participate in marketing events both in India and abroad through funding under the National Handloom Development Programme.

Furthermore, over the last three years, the Textiles Ministry has

provided financial assistance of Rs 151.90 crores to organize 849 marketing events in the country for the benefit of 8,46,900 weavers.

The 'HastakalaSahyogShivir' is part of the textiles ministry larger endeavour to improve the lot of weavers and artisans which in turn will give the necessary fillip to these sectors. For instance, it has launched the 'E-Dhaga' App which enables weavers to order and track the shipping of yarn and 'BunkarMitra' helpline, also for weavers.

The impetus being given to the handlooms and handicraft sectors also recognizes the fact that they make an enormous contribution to the country's economy and help earn valuable foreign exchange. As part of its endeavour to give a boost to the handloom sector, Prime Minister Modi had launched the first National Handloom Day on August 7, 2015.

The handloom and handicraft sectors are among the largest employment provider in the country, and combinedly next only to agriculture. According to the 2016-17 annual report of the textiles ministry, the handloom and handicraft sectors provided employment to 43.31 lakh and 68.86 lakh persons, respectively. The two sectors also bring in considerable foreign exchange through exports of quality products.

Besides, there is no gainsaying the fact that handlooms and handicrafts are a valuable and integral part of India's heritage that need to be both preserved and promoted.

The writer is a senior Delhi-based journalist. (PIB Feature)

North East News

North Eastern Warriors impresses in Vodafone Premier Badminton League Season 3 Players' Auction

IT News

Guwahati, October 16 – North Eastern Warriors showed great strategic acumen in the Players' Auction of the Vodafone Premier Badminton League Season 3 to emerge as one of the best gainers by lapping up players who are well capable of delivering the title for them.

The team which is owned by **TK Engineering Consortium Pvt. Ltd** is a new entrant and it is the first team from the northeast region to have joined the PBL bandwagon. Even though the season has not yet started, the Warriors have already impressed everyone with their performance in the Players' Auction and used their money smartly to end as the lowest spending franchisee; using only Rs 2.21 lakh out of the total purse of Rs.2.4 crore. They went about their cherry-picking business very calmly landing their targets with rather ease. The team not only is capable of challenging for the title but will also help in popularizing badminton in this part of the country.

The team helmed by former Indian Olympian Nikhil Kanetkar has picked up young Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei for Rs.52 lakh as their Icon player. Wang Tzu is currently ranked 10th in the world and is a former World junior



champion. He will be complemented in the men's singles category by India's own Ajay Jayaram who was bought for Rs.44 lakh. Ajay, ranked 20 in the world has been one of the mainstays for years now for India in the men's singles category and will be a huge draw for the local fans. He was the second most successful men's singles player in last season of PBL and helped his side Mumbai Rockets to the final. His team would be hoping for him to repeat his performance this year as well.

Nikhil Kanetkar, coach of the Warriors was very satisfied with the squad that they picked up. "We were very clear with our thought process and knew exactly who we wanted to buy in the auction. We are happy that we could land most our targets and now looking forward to the season," he said after the Players' Auction. While they have a very reliable player in their ranks in the men's singles category, their men's

doubles acquisition will be a matter of envy to all the teams. They brought Shin BaekCheol of Korea for Rs 55 lakh; their highest paid player. Cheol is Korean legend and have won numerous titles including the BWF World Championships. He will be paired alongside his compatriot Kim Gi Jung in the men's doubles category. Jung who was bought for Rs 30 lakh is a legend in his own right and has won medals in BWF World Championships, Asian Games, Thomas to name a few.

"It is really a good team and I am happy to be part of the North Eastern Warriors. And also the presence of Nikhil will be a huge plus for me as I have known him for a long time and it will be great to work with him. I think our biggest strength will be the men's doubles but having said that we also have good depth in the other categories as well and if we can get rolling from the start, I think we will have a great chance of

going the distance," Ajay Jayaram said.

While their men's singles and men's doubles will give them a great advantage going into the season, they made sure to beef up the other departments as well. They have snapped up Michelle Li of Canada (Rs.15 lakh) and young Indian player in RuthvikaShivani (Rs.9 lakh) in the women's singles category. Michelle, who is of Chinese Origin is the reigning CWG Champion and will be looking to pack a punch in the tournament.

They have also acquired the services of PrajaktaSawant (Rs 7 lakh) and SanayogitaGhorpade(Rs 1 lakh), who will ply their trade in the mixed doubles category.

The 24-day league which will be held under the aegis of Badminton Association of India and conducted by Sportzlive Entertainment, official license holder of the league will see the eight teams, namely Delhi Acers, Mumbai Rockets, Bengaluru Blasters, Chennai Smashers, Hyderabad Hunters, North Eastern Warriors, Ahmedabad Smash Masters and Awadhe Warriors in action. The PBL Season 3 will be telecast Live on the Star Sports Network and streamed live on Hotstar.

HPC(D) members endorse proposed agreement with Mizogovt

PTI Aizawl, Oct 16: The rank and file of the Manipur based Hmar People's Convention (Democracy) have endorsed the proposed framework agreement made during peace talks with the Mizoram government, a senior HPC(D) leader today said.

The agreement was drafted by the

delegation of the Mizoram government and that of the militant group during the peace talks held since August ten, leader of the HPC(D) delegation in the peace talks and working chairman of the group L T Hmar said.

There was, however, reservation on some wordings, he said. Hmar said that though the creation

of the Sinlung Hills Council (SHC) with more autonomy compared to the existing Sinlung Hills Development Council (SHDC) was not their main goal, but they were accepting the wishes of the government.

"What we wanted is an autonomous district council under the sixth schedule of the Constitution, but

the Mizoram government rejected the demand," he said.

The Hmar Supreme House would convene a meeting of the Hmar community in Manipur to explain the proposed agreement between the HPC(D) and the state government, he said. The series of peace talks concluded on September 22.