

Editorial

Tonsuring the nature

Crimes against humanity deserve the worst form of punishment. Different nations have different legal system to protect the interests of their country. The enforcement of certain laws - like capital punishment; Special powers act to armed forces may have strong and supportive arguments as it is about the security of their respective nations. Gross violation of human rights at certain parts of the country and other parts of the world may receive severe criticisms from many who are concerned for Human values. Arguments may continue for certain human causes permitting each sides to stand tight with their act. But what about some issues like global warming, water scarcity and deforestation?

There is no wrong in saying that environment has no boundary. A massive destruction of forest or extraction of crude oil or mismanagement of natural water is among the issues which no nations could give reasonable arguments as it affect regions beyond politically drawn boundaries. After all, these issues are about human beings across the globe.

Reports about the scarcity of usable water have been top news at almost all newspaper in Manipur. As for the state of Manipur there is adequate rainfall every year but faced acute shortage of water almost every year in the last couple of decades. Interestingly, during rainy season the state also witnessed flood almost every time. In short the state suffers the ugly face of flood during rainy season while they had to bear drought in the remaining days. In view of the arising situation that we are facing right now, there is an urgent matter that needs to be pondered on what went wrong? Is it the people or is it the government who is responsible for the present crisis?

Deforestation that has been taking place illegally at different parts of the state has been often blamed - both by government and the many social activists which is universally accepted by all. One thing we at Imphal Times suggest is that we cannot completely blame the people who are responsible for cutting the trees for their livelihood. It is the government which is responsible and why shouldn't it be? It was all about their survival and mind it some people do not have any alternative for survival. On paper government had passed many schemes to substitute the livelihood but it is an open secret that none of this schemes targeted for the poor people had never been benefitted by the targeted beneficiaries as the money meant for them had been pocketed by government authorities who were assigned for implementation of the projects.

Another matter, which we at IMPHAL TIMES is concerned is the poor understanding of the government department about the need for storage of natural water underneath the earth. There seems to be complete lack of knowledge by the government authority about the need to let the earth absorb any source of water. Clear example is the drain constructed under huge funding from the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM). The cubicle shaped drainage construction has no mechanism to let the drain water absorb underneath the earth. This is not only the case with any government infrastructural development work there is no sign of the government authority showing concern about the importance of harvesting the rain water. Harvesting rain water does not mean that it should be stored in a tank or some man-made water storage tank. It is about harvesting inside the earth core which can be reused using other means. For a state endowed with resources, such abject failure to utilize and benefit from the gifts of nature only undermines the apathy and complacency of the state government.

Sasikala makes quiet homecoming

TNN Chennai, Oct. 7: It wasn't until a few minutes before V K Sasikala arrived at #181, Habibullah Road, in Chennai that AIADMK partymen raised slogans hailing her. There was no palpable excitement in the air. Despite the high profile nature of Sasikala's return, there was no grandeur in the "homecoming" ritual. "She is not back for good. It is only seven days," mumbled an AIADMK worker. Sasikala is out on parole till October 12. Sandwiched between Usman Road and Mambalam High Road in the city

, Sasikala's niece Krishnapriya's home is located in a quiet neighbourhood. But, Sasika la's convoy movement threw traffic in the city out of gear. On Friday, all eyes were trained on the dimly lit two-storey building, much to the chagrin of other local residents. "I find this nonsensical," said Shanmugham, a local resident. He lives in the apartment opposite to Krishnapriya's house. At least half a dozen high rise structures, with street facing balconies, overlook her house. Yet, the number of people peering through these vantage points were few.

More State News

Mass Social Awareness Programme held at Kangpokpi

PIB Defence

Imphal, Oct 7: A mass awareness programme was org at Brig Thomas gmd, KPI by Jwalamukhi Battalion, Senapati Brigade under the aegis of Red shield division on 06 Oct 2017. The aim of this programme was to spread awareness and enlighten the general public regarding various Central and State Govt schemes that are in vogue for the welfare and overall development of the people. The programme was attended by approx 590 people incl students from various parts of kangpokpi district. A no of stalls from various dist level govt depts including forest, medical, social welfare, Supply, Industries, transport, Cooperative society, MSPDCL, Food safety, Vety & AH, Horticulture & soil conservation, Krishi vigan kendra, Youth coordination, Child development, handloom & textiles, Sericulture, TA & Hills, SBI, Aadhar cell, Fire strc etc were setup to educate the general public on matters related to role of each depts, schemes in vogue and schemes planned for future. Employment guidance cell ex 38 AR was setup for registration cum career counselling of youth population looking for various job opportunities. A free medical checkup was provided by the medical team exercised by Jwalamukhi Battalion at the venue. The Pipe band display by the Band platoon of Jwalamukhi Battalion received tremendous appreciation from the public. The awareness programme provided the common

mass a platform to interact with the district level government officials face to face.

The programme was attended by Brig Dipankar saha, Cdr 59 Mtn Bde, Mr Ranjit Singh (IAS), DC KPI district, Shri T Haokip ex IRS from Saitu, Chairpersons of KSO and KWO, Chairmen and village chiefs of approx 85 villages.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ranjit Singh (IAS), DC KPI dist thanked the Jwalamukhi Battalion and Senapati Brigade for organizing this programme and urged the locals to make full use of this opportunity and empower themselves. He also thanked the KPI district government officials for taking tremendous interest and setting up very informative stalls to educate and empower the public. Brig Dipankar Saha, Cdr 59 Mtn brigade during his address motivated the public to take active part in the programme and advised the Army and Civil adm setup to work together for achieving sustainable growth and everlasting peace in Kangpokpi district.

The programme was a major step in increasing the interaction between the security forces and the locals with an aim to facilitate amelioration of day to day problems of the locals especially people residing in the far flung areas. The people expressed heartfelt gratitude to the security forces for organizing such a programme as it provided them a platform to express their concerns directly to the officials.

NSCN-IM warns hotels and restaurants

IT News

Imphal, Oct 7: The CAO Caretaker UT-I Mr. Rangkhambam Anar, Dy.Kilonser, stated that inspite of repeated cautions it has become a daily routine and continued practice of serving unhygienic food stuff, daylight robbery by changing tags (MRP) and immoral activities in the Hotels and restaurants. Further, NSCN/GPRN UT-I cautions manufacturing and using of non-recyclable multilayered plastics by most of the business establishments, shops, and vendors under its jurisdiction. The NSCN/GPRN UT-I through its

secretary, Mr. Ghokuto Chishi, informed all the Hotels and Restaurants to serve hygienic food stuff; to sell commodities according to MRP (Maximum retail price) and to practice good moral activities. As per the pollution Control Board on the plastic waste (Managing and Handling) the business establishments, shops, and vendors, can use 40/50 micron biodegradable poly bags. On violation of the above mentioned any Hotel/ Restaurants/business establishments/shops/vendors will be penalized and stern action would be initiated.

Letter to editor

Imprudence of ATSUM

Sir,

The press statement of the All Tribal Students Union of Manipur (ATSUM) that came out in the media on Oct 5, 2017 saying that "it will fight to the end against the inclusion of the Meiteis in the ST list" of the Indian Constitution, is stupid.

ATSUM's reason for their stand is "The Meiteis have no criteria to be in the ST list". They are also very worried that if the Meiteis are included in the ST list it would "bring more inequality in the State in all respects".

Now, talking about the criteria for being a tribal - the fact that the social mores of the Meiteis such as the absence of respect or reverence for the leadership - political or otherwise which is so profound & natural within the Meitei community is an unmistakable trait of any tribal community not only in India but in all the seven continents on the earth.

The myth and the reverence for natural objects such as stones, trees or a particular spot like a hilltop e.g Koubrou, Khallong, Thangching or a water body e.g Poorook shoubi in the foothills of Nongmaiching hills etc., which the Meeteis, including the Meitei hindu believe to be sacred, tell the stories of a tribal society.

Laiharaoaba - the ceremony of genealogy for the Meiteis which is observed since time immemorial where the Maibe(s) - who in some way similar to the shaman of the Native Americans - take an essential part is a Meitei ritual that still connects man with the God who creates us even today. This Laiharaoaba ritual is observed every year during a specific period of the year. During the ritual ceremony God will come among us and we can hear the voice of God through the mouth of the Maibe.

These are some of the important characters of a tribal community which are still found in the present day Meitei community, even though some among the Meitei hindus do feel shy to admit it openly.

I believe the committee constituted by the Manipur government in this regard could have easily found these tribal characters of the Meiteis. Therefore the committee can unambiguously come to the conclusion that the Meeteis are no less tribal if not more, than any of the scheduled tribe groups of the northeast.

Regarding the fear of ATSUM that if Meeteis are included in the scheduled list it would "bring more inequality in the state" is absurd. Because Meeteis' asking for the ST status is to get a level playing field in the national context. Secondly, since Manipur becoming a part of India in 1949 the Meeteis, having a few lakhs population are competing in every field with the mainland Indians having an estimated population of 1.3 billion plus, without any protective gear. And lastly, Meeteis are not rightful citizens in their own home state. The Indian Constitution forbids the Meiteis to reside rightfully in ninety percent of the land areas of Manipur. On top of it, the remaining area where Meeteis can reside, that is the valley is flooded with unchecked influx of Bangladeshis, Nepalis and other non-indigenous migrants and threatened the indigenous population, particularly the Meiteis with extinction.

This is a very serious injustice done to the Meiteis by the Indian Constitution and the government of India. Any community would not tolerate such an injustice done to them. Come what may, the Meeteis should be fighting for their survival. The Meiteis' asking the government of India to include them rightly, in the scheduled list is because it is the most effective means to protect themselves from complete annihilation in the face of unchecked and unhindered influx of migrants. Anybody including ATSUM should be doing the same if they are placed in the same position.

Therefore it would be in the best interests of all of us not to create any room for animosity among our people in the matter of the very survival of the Meiteis. Let there be no doubt in everyone's mind that the Meeteis would not take any move from any quarter that would help or assist or cause to threaten its existence lying down. We all know, divided we fall, so why should we go to fall.

Yours faithfully
Heikrujam Nabashyam
Ex-Candidate, Singjamei AC

International and National News

Woman gang-raped at gunpoint in front of husband and child in Muzaffarnagar

ANI Muzaffarnagar, Oct. 7: In yet another incident of crime against women, a 25-year-old lady was allegedly gang-raped by four men at gun point on Friday, in front of her husband and child here. The four accused pulled her off the bike and dragged her to a sugarcane field nearby and took turns to abuse

her. They also threatened her and her husband against disclosing the incident to anyone. Speaking to ANI, victim said, "Four men dragged me to a sugar cane farm and raped me. They constantly threatened to kill my child, also tied and beat up my husband. The men also constantly

threatened to kill my child". Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Sehdev stated, "The incident happened when the woman was returning from a village with her husband and three-month-old child on a motorbike. An FIR

has been registered in this case; medical examination of both the victim and her husband is being done; also investigation is underway". The accused are on the run and yet to be identified.

Filmmaker Kundan Shah is dead

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 7: Veteran director Kundan Shah, best known for the dark comedy "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", died at his home early today, family sources said. He was 69. Shah passed away after suffering a heart attack, sources close to the family told PTI.

He had studied direction at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and made his feature film debut in 1983 with the cult classic "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" (1983).

The film did not become a box office success but Shah received his first and only National Award - Indira Gandhi Award for Best First Film of a Director - for the movie which went on to become one of the most celebrated dark satirical comedies in the history of Indian

cinema.

Shah returned the award during the student protest in his alma mater FTII in 2015.

He made his directorial debut on television in 1986 with the popular series "Nukkad".

In 1988, he directed the sitcom, "Wagle Ki Dunिया", based on cartoonist R K Laxman's character, the common man.

The director made his Bollywood comeback in 1993 with Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa".

His next film was "Kya Kehna" (2000). Starring Preity Zinta, Saif Ali Khan and Chandrachud Singh, the movie became a surprise hit. Though Shah made several films after that, commercial success eluded him.

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Four of a family, guard found murdered in northeast Delhi

TNN New Delhi, Oct. 7: Five people, including at least three women, were found murdered at a house in Mansarovar Park in northeast Delhi on Saturday morning. Four of the deceased belonged to the same family. The family members have been identified as Nupur Jindal (35), Anjali Jindal (33), Urmila (65) and Sangeet Gupta (43). The fifth murder was of a guard named Rakesh (50).

The police received the call at around 7.30am and rushed to the spot. The deceased women belonged to a family having oil

business in the area. Police said all the victims have stab injuries on their bodies. Joint commissioner (eastern range) Ravindra Yadav confirmed the incident and said five teams have been formed to crack the case. Cops are questioning the family members to know what preceded the murders but initial facts indicate that a property dispute could be the reason behind the killings.

The crime team and forensic officials have inspected the spot and lifted fingerprints. A case of murder has been filed. The bodies have been sent for autopsy.