

# Editorial

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

“Those we love remain with us  
For love itself lives on,  
And cherished memories never fade  
Because a loved one’s gone.  
Those we love can never be  
More than a thought apart,  
Far as long as there is memory,  
They’ll live on in the heart”



As we mourn your untimely demise, Tamo Khelen, we, team Imphal Times leaves our editorial space empty with no words.

## Condolence

The Editors’ Guild Manipur, led by its President A Mobi today (2nd April 2018) held a condolence meeting at the conference Hall of Sangai Express, on the sudden demise of Senior Journalist Khelen Thokhom, Special Correspondent of the Telegraph.

Khelen passed away at his residence in the early hours of April 1, 2018.

Members of the EGM observed two minutes silence paying tribute to the departed soul, who worked with various local and national papers in various capacities including being an Editor.

Khelen Thochom had been a good friend of the EGM and a close rapport existed between him and the members. With his demise, Manipur has been deprived of a great son.

Members of EGM also paid condolence to former Editor of Nongalakra Daily, Suresh Luwang who passed away on 29/3/2018.

Members shared the sorrows and grief of the two families and prayed the Almighty that their soul rest in peace.

Secretary General  
Editors’ Guild Manipur

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# A Luminous Life... People’s Literary Festival

Vishü Rita Krocha writes on People’s Literary Festival 2018 held at Kolkatta from March 24 and March 25, 2018

The familiar sight of years gone by struck me with a deep sense of nostalgia as I revisited the City of Joy. The place where poetry was born in me. And to find that home is never too far away when you encounter people who are driven by the same passion as yours. It was my love for books that brought me back to the city, thanks to the Bastar Solidarity Network (BSN)!

And it is with profound memories of the two day PEOPLE’S LITERARY FESTIVAL that I return back to the hills, stronger in my resolve to keep the rich stories of my land alive.

I just read somewhere that there are as many as 67 lit fests in a year in India- which I thought is really incredible. But what’s different about the People’s Literary Festival Kolkata is the cause behind it. It celebrates people as much as it does literature. It celebrates humanity and talks about real things. About life at its best and at its worst. It talks about the truth. The stark



reality of things. And that’s what I really like about it. Because life can only be that- real.

For some reason, the Lit Fest also reminded me of Sylvia Plath’s words- “And by the way,

everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise.” Perhaps because “fearless” is the word for it. I was certainly in the midst of bold and courageous writers, some of whose writings also created an uproar for speaking their minds. But somebody once said, “writing really only begins once we forget to be afraid”, and I truly believe that fearless writing is at the heart of any good literature. On a heartwarming note, that the

Lit Fest was crowdfunded also left an indelible impression on me. I would never have guessed who was going to host me. A sheer coincidence to discover later that my host teaches at the college I graduated from. I traveled many years back to relive my college days- finding myself in that classroom of poetry- and somehow, all the happy memories of those beautiful years came rushing back. What a nice thing it is to reconnect!

I caught up with old friends I haven’t seen in many years. The next evening, I walked the familiar streets again after an engrossing session of poetry. It started to rain as if it knew my love for it. And if nothing else, this has evoked in me a sense of belonging, and certainly more poetry.

I hope to return here again someday. If only to indulge in literature. Perhaps also to reconnect with the BSN. I know somewhere deep in my heart that they will continue to keep fighting the good fight. And may our stories, be it in words or deeds, be those that light somebody else’s path!

(PS: To my host- I remain grateful for all the love. For sharing your home with me. And for all the book talks. Not to forget the pen. I hope to write some poetry with it.)

## National & International News

### Rahul Gandhi to kickstart 5th leg of campaign in Karnataka from today

Agency  
Bangalore, April 3,

Congress president Rahul Gandhi is all set to kick-off his fifth leg of election campaign in Karnataka today with his itinerary including places covered recently by BJP national president Amit Shah.

Gandhi will travel to Shivamogga, Davangere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru and Ramanagar district as part of his two-day campaign in the poll-bound state.

Besides holding a public meeting, he would also call on Shivakumara swamiji of Siddaganga Math, who turned 111 on Saturday, as per the programme details released by the party.

The Congress president would meet people at Bus Stand Chowk and address a public gathering in Shivamogga today.

He will then visit Honnali, Harihara and Bathi towns in Davangere district.

Gandhi would also hold a public meeting at Davangere town.

Tomorrow, Gandhi would visit Holalakeri in Chitradurga district and address a gathering.

He would then travel to Siddaganga Math in Tumakuru district.

Gandhi would meet people in Kunigal town and would conclude another round of campaigning by addressing a public campaign at Magadi in Ramanagar district

before leaving for Delhi. Shah had toured these places on March 26 and 27.

Touring Karnataka extensively, Shah has completed four rounds of campaign in the runup to the May 12 assembly polls.

He launched the ‘Karunadu Jagruti Yatre’ in Shivamogga Town, held a public meeting at Gopi Circle, launched ‘Mushti Dhaanya Abhiyan’ (campaign for fistful of grain) in a village in Davangere and then addressed a public gathering at Chalkere in Chitradurga district.

Shah had also called on Shivakumara Swamiji and sought his blessings.

In February, the senior BJP leader had addressed a public gathering at Holalakeri.

Against the backdrop of Karnataka government according religious minority tag to Lingayats ahead of the assembly polls, BJP as well the Congress launched an extensive drive to woo the Lingayats, who are numerically and politically strong in Karnataka.

Gandhi’s meeting with Shivakumar Swamiji is aimed at strengthening his party’s base among Lingayats. While Shivamogga and Davangere have substantial Lingayat population, Chalkere and Holalakeri in Chitradurga are dominated by tribals, Dalits and other backward castes.

### Direct tax collections grow 17% to Rs 9.95 lakh crores in 2017-’18

Agency  
New Delhi, April 3,

The Direct Tax collections for the fiscal year 2017-18 stood at 9(point)95 lakh crore rupees, which is 17(point)1 per cent higher than net collection of 2016-17.

The tax collections during the fiscal year 2017-18 has exceeded the budget estimates of Rs. 9.80 lakh crore.

Briefing reporters in New Delhi, Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said, the government has broadly met the direct and indirect tax revenue target this year.

Giving more details on direct tax collection, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Chairman Sushil Chandra said, during the last fiscal, 6.84 crore income tax returns were filed as compared to 5.43 crore returns filed in 2016-17 showing a growth of 26 per cent.

## More National News

### AR seizes more WY tablets; vows to make Manipur – a drug free state



IT News  
Imphal, April 3:

In one of the largest recoveries of contraband items on April 2, 12 Assam Rifles apprehended a drug peddler with WYI Tablets weighing 38,520 kgs (approximate quantity 3,20,000 Nos, total-1600 packets) at PVCP, Khudengthabi. A statement of the PRO, IGAR (S) said that personnel of the AR posted at Khudengthabi checked a bus bearing registration No MN01 1394 after getting specific information about transporting illegal drugs.

On thorough checking of the bus, WYI Tablets were found in a

modified concealed compartment of the bus.

The PRO statement said, “It is pertinent to mention here that this seizure of contraband drugs by Assam Rifles is a major blow to the drug peddlers in the state and the same is the largest recovery of drug consignment so far.

Since 2017, 12 Assam Rifles has recovered contraband items worth approximate Rs 70 Crore and the same is a major step in making Manipur a Drug Free State.

Recovered drugs alongwith apprehendee was handed over to Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Imphal.

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