

Editorial

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018

Impositions on information

Finally it has come down to this: for those of us who endeavoured to present the different sides of the same coin which, in all honesty, would have made for a more engaging and transparent society inasmuch as the news and the opinions together with the claims and counterclaims from diametrically opposite sides of the social spectrum that has been churned up, the dreaded gag has been brandished once again. Sad to say that the Damocles sword still hangs large over the journalistic fraternity of the state who are slogging day in and day out to present a balanced and impersonal view of the present social scenario to the public who will ultimately draw up an informed judgment of the powers that be at present. The foremost value of news is as a utility to empower the informed, and therein lies the purpose of journalism: to provide citizens with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their lives, their communities, their societies and their government.

Cut to the present: numerous disgruntled 'proscribed' groups who have taken up arms to reinforce their claims are holding sway in the society and the general public, caught up as they are in the daily grind to make ends meet are left to fend for themselves given the most volatile and delicate nature of the society at present. While the state administrators claimed an improved law and order situation, the ground reality tells a different story. Those who are at the wrong end of the barrel still bear the brunt of the ire and whims of those whose itchy fingers controls the trigger.

This is the most crucial time when ideas and ideologies of both the conflicting sides need to be told for the general public to discuss and contemplate over. And the only party that can and does convey the unabridged versions of the parties on the extreme ends happened to be the journalists whose lives have been put to risks and tests with occasionally unfortunate conclusions. The right to free and open access to news and information should be universal, but threats to the press clearly persists, and it is rather unfortunate that the state government headed by a former journalist allows such obnoxious and high-handed treatment to be meted out to the press for as routine a thing as carrying a press release from one of the numerous proscribed armed groups in the state.

Freedom of the press is a prerequisite to the fulfillment of democratic ideologies. It is the press that upholds the freedom of self-assertion of its citizens and any attempts at suppressing or restricting its bounden duty by any force will only result in undesirable consequences.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Heshia Kharsi** of Rikhumai Taphou, P.O. Senapati, P.S. Senapati, Pin - 795106, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **K Hriishia**, as I have assumed my new name **Heshia Kharsi**
Sd/-
Heshia Kharsi

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Kaisii Kharsi** of Rikhumai Taphou, P.O. Senapati, P.S. Senapati, Pin - 795106, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **N Kaisii**, as I have assumed my new name **Kaisii Kharsi**
Sd/-
Kaisii Kharsi

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Lucy Kharsi** of Rikhumai Taphou, P.O. Senapati, P.S. Senapati, Pin - 795106, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **K Lucy Kharsi**, as I have assumed my new name **Lucy Kharsi**
Sd/-
Lucy Kharsi

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Thonggou** of Beulahlane Lamka, P.O. Ccpur, P.S./ Dist. Churachandpur Pin - 795128, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Abel Hangshing Thonggou**, as I have assumed my new name **Thonggou**.
Sd/-
Thonggou

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Laitonjam ongbi Rebika Devi** of Yourabang Khunou, Imphal East, P.O. Lamlong, P.S. Lamlai, Pin - 795010, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Laitonjam ongbi Rebika Leima**, as I have assumed my new name **Laitonjam ongbi Rebika Devi**.
Sd/-
Laitonjam ongbi Rebika Devi

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National & International News

Tripura goes to polls tomorrow, BJP the main challenger

Agency Agartala, Feb 17: Tripura would go to polls tomorrow with the BJP emerging as the main challenger to the ruling Left Front, which has been in power in the state for the last 25 years. Polling would be held in 59 of the total 60 seats. Voting in Charilam Assembly constituency would be held on March 12 due to the death of the CPI(M) candidate for the seat, Ramendra Narayan Deb Barma, five days ago. Twenty seats have been reserved for the scheduled tribes. The BJP held a high-voltage campaign with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing as many as four rallies in the state. Other heavyweight leaders of the saffron party to take part in the campaign were its national president Amit Shah, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari

and Smriti Irani and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Manik Sarkar, who is running for his fifth term as the chief minister, led the CPI(M)'s campaign addressing around 50 rallies in the state. Other Left leaders like Sitaram Yechury and Brinda Karat lent support to the party's campaign. The Congress' campaign was somewhat subdued with party president Rahul Gandhi addressing a rally at Kailashahar in Unakoti district, about 180 kms from Agartala, on the last day of campaigning. Altogether, 307 candidates are in the fray. The CPI(M) is contesting in 57 seats and while the other Left Front constituents, the RSP, Forward Bloc and CPI, in one seat each. The BJP, which has forged an

alliance with tribal outfit Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT) has fielded 51 candidates. IPFT will contest in the remaining nine seats. The Congress is going it alone in Tripura this time and will contest in 59 seats. The party has not fielded any candidate for Kakrabon constituency in Gomati district. There are 25,73,413 electorate, of whom 13,05,375 are males and 12,68,027 women while the number of third gender voters is 11. There are 47,803 new voters this time. Voting would be held between 7 am and 4 pm tomorrow at 3,214 polling stations of which 47 would be managed by women, election office sources said. Tripura chief electoral officer Sriram Taranikanti said the Election Commission has appointed police observers,

general observers and expenditure observers to ensure free and fair polls. He said, Director General of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) R K Pachanda has been appointed as a special observer to coordinate the security forces deployed in the state. State Director General of Police Akhil Kumar Shukla said tight security measures are in place across Tripura for free and fair elections. Three hundred companies of central armed forces have been deployed across the state along with state armed personnel and the police, he said, adding the BSF is keeping close vigil along the 856 km long Indo-Bangladesh border in the state. Counting of votes would be take place on March 3, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Debashish Modak said.

Police announce Rs 25k reward for info on man who masturbated on Delhi bus

Agency New Delhi, Feb. 17: The Delhi Police has swung into action and announced a reward for information of the man who was caught masturbating on a crowded bus on February 7, 2018. The disgusting act was filmed by a Delhi University student who was sitting next to the man in the bus. The man was also constantly touching her waist while the co-passengers ignored the incident.

In the latest, the Delhi police on Saturday have announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for anyone who provides information about the man. The identity of the informant will be kept anonymous, the police notice further added. On February 7, the man sitting next to the Delhi University student unzipped his pants and began to masturbate on the crowded bus. The girl managed to capture the entire act on

camera and uploaded it to social media, where it triggered an outrage with users demanding immediate arrest of the man. In the video, which the girl has posted, a middle-aged man is seen exposing and fondling himself, a bag on his lap shielding his activities from most passengers in the bus but the young woman sitting next to him. The girl in her FIR stated the incident occurred on February 7 on the route between Vasant Village in South Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gate. The complainant shouted at the accused, but "he did not understand" and the co-

passengers also "ignored it," the FIR further read. Earlier talking to the news agency ANI, the victim said she was travelling in a crowded bus when a man sitting next to her masturbated. "I was left stunned but then I made a video of the incident and posted it on social media to make people aware of the incident. People don't even consider something like this a form of sexual harassment," the Delhi University student said. An FIR has been lodged with Vasant Vihar Police under sections 354 (sexual harassment), 354A, and 294 (obscene act in public place) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A probe is underway.

Asha Bhosle honoured with Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Agency Mumbai, Feb 17: Legendary singer Asha Bhosle has received the fifth Yash Chopra Memorial Award. Bhosle was honoured here last night by yesteryear diva Rekha and the actor credited the legendary singer and Chopra for making her a big star in Hindi film industry. "I am here because of two people Yashji and Asha Bhosle. She is part of my life. She is beautiful inside out. I have learnt a lot from the Mangeskar family. Lataji and Ashaji. "Initially I used to be afraid of her, as on her own songs, I had to perform on-screen and express it all through my eyes. What I have learnt from her is to keep smiling all the time. May you live long," Rekha said, before presenting the award to Bhosle. The previous recipients of the award are Lata Mangeskar, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, and superstar Shah Rukh Khan. "It feels good to get the award, it

is a special award. I am happy to get award in his name but I am sad that he is not alive today. I always wonder what if he was alive today. I have got no answer," Bhosle said. Remembering her first meeting with Chopra, Bhosle, said, she was introduced to the director by B R Chopra. "He was like a brother to me. We used to joke around a lot. He used to sit for recording. I had worked in a film called 'Mai', I was blackmailed to do the film, he (Chopra) did the clapping for me, I was initially scared as he had directed 22 films but it all turned out to be good at the end," she added. The event was also attended by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao, Alka Yagnik, Jackie Shroff, Parineeti Chopra, Poonam Dhillon, Jaya Prada among others. The Award has been instituted by the TSR Foundation of T Subbarami Reddy in memory of producer-director Yash Chopra, who died in 2012.

Big Mexico quake cuts power and damages homes; two dead in crash

Agency Mexico, Feb. 16: A prolonged 7.2 magnitude quake that rocked Mexico on Friday left nearly a million homes and businesses without power in the capital and south but the only reported deaths came when a military helicopter crashed after surveying the aftermath. At least 50 homes suffered damage in the southern state of Oaxaca, which, along with Mexico City, is still reeling from earthquakes that caused widespread damage in September. The epicenter was about 90 miles (145 km) from Pacific coast surfer resort Puerto Escondido in the southern state of Oaxaca

and had a depth of 15.3 miles (24.6 km), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. At least two people died when a helicopter carrying Mexico's interior minister and the governor of Oaxaca crashed while trying to land after a tour of damage from the earthquake, officials said. The senior officials survived. The powerful, sustained shaking on Friday gave way to 225 aftershocks, the national seismology service said, and caused widespread panic. In Mexico City, the seismic alarm sounded 72 seconds before tremors were felt, Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said, giving residents time to flee to the streets.

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