

Editorial

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018

Pollution pangs

No one could have put it more succinctly when the Chief Minister asserted that the most important factor for the worsening state of pollution in Manipur is the lack of civic sense among the public- an admission of a problem bound to get out of hand in the very near future. While the statement of the CM blaming the lack of strategic planning and long term vision of the previous government may be construed as a political jive, it also shows the intent of the present government to turn things around.

Things however are easier said than done, and going by the present standard of living and general awareness of the public, it will need much more than a great plan or vision to get things going. Recognizing and admitting the existence of a problem is however a positive step towards efforts to finding a solution. The next logical step therefore is the drawing up of a pragmatic waste management action plan taking into considerations the socio-economic conditions of the people in the state, followed with a concerted and sustained awareness drive utilizing various forms of media.

Waste management rules in India are based on the principles of "sustainable development", "precaution" and "polluter pays". These principles mandate municipalities and commercial establishments to act in an environmentally accountable and responsible manner—restoring balance, if their actions disrupt it. The increase in waste generation as a by-product of economic development has led to various subordinate legislations for regulating the manner of disposal and dealing with generated waste are made under the umbrella law of Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EPA). Specific forms of waste are the subject matter of separate rules and require separate compliances, mostly in the nature of authorisations, maintenance of records and adequate disposal mechanisms.

Although the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, and Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, encourage a decentralised approach to managing waste, it has really been implemented in few cities, and has yet to take shape in our state. The state authorities alone cannot be left to deal with the humongous task of managing waste and pollution. Therefore, the state government should look into ways to initiate, encourage and support private entrepreneurs and organizations to set up units that directly or indirectly deals with waste management and pollution. Brainstorming and deliberating about reviving the night plaza is all well and good, however making efforts to reduce pollution and waste disposal should be given priority. Setting up of proper garbage collection sites with provisions for segregation of waste at source which is the most important and starting point of ensuring a proper waste management system should be made available to the public.

With an estimated 120 tonnes of waste being generated within Imphal city on a daily basis, the solid waste treatment plant at Lamdeng is ill-equipped to effectively process the waste. It is the duty of every household to curb wastage, reduce pollution and take up steps to reuse and recycle.

A strict implementation of the rules and imposition of stiff penalties to the defaulters will definitely go a long way in enforcing the laws. But for it to happen, necessary facilities and provisions should first be made available to the public.

UP govt transfers 26 IPS officers

PTI Lucknow, Feb 2: In a major reshuffle, the Uttar Pradesh government today transferred 26 IPS officers, including ADG zone and IG range of the state capital. While ADG (Lucknow zone) Abhay Kumar Prasad has been sent to the Economic Office Wing (EOW), ADG, BR Ambedkar Police Academy Moradabad, Rajiv Krishan, was made the new ADG zone Lucknow, officials sources said here.

IG range JN Singh was replaced by Sujit Pandey who was till now posted as IG (Telecom), they said. Among those transferred were PV Ramashastry, who was made ADG (Varanasi zone) after being on waitlist, ADG CB-ID Dawa Sherpa, who was sent as ADG Gorakhpur zone, DK Thakur, who was made IG (Bareilly) after being on waitlist, DIG PAC Praveen Kumar was made DIG (Law and Order), they said. IG (Bareilly) SK Bhagat was made IG (Law and order).

Restrictions in parts of Srinagar, Shopian

PTI Srinagar, Feb 2: Authorities today imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar and Shopian districts to foil the separatists' plan of holding a rally to protest against the recent civilian killings in alleged Army firing. Separatist leaders Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik, under the banner of Joint Resistance Leadership, had called for a march to Shopian district to protest against the killing of three civilians in alleged Army firing on stone-pelters there January 27. While Geelani and Mirwaiz were placed under house arrest, Malik

reportedly managed to reach Shopian. However, officials neither confirmed nor denied Malik's presence in Shopian. Restrictions were imposed in areas falling under police stations Nowhatta, Khanyar, Rainawari, Maharajgunj and Safakadal in Srinagar, officials said. They said restrictions were also imposed in some parts of Maisuma and Kralkhud police stations in the city. Restrictions on movement of people and transport were imposed in Shopian district as well, they said, adding that essential services had been exempted.

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National & International News

Mary Kom strikes gold; Cuba, Uzbekistan halt men

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 2: M C Mary Kom claimed a gold in the women's competition but Indian men were denied a complete sweep by traditional powerhouses Cuba and Uzbekistan on an exciting final day of the India Open boxing tournament, here yesterday. Mary Kom (48kg) got the better of Filipino Josie Gabuco 4-1 in a battle of attrition to come up trumps.

In fact, women stole the thunder from men by picking up five gold medals after men were thwarted by Cuba and Uzbekistan.

Pwilao Basumatary (64kg) was the first among them to fetch a gold. The former world and Asian bronze medalist claimed a 3-2 win over Thailand's Sudaporn Seesondee. The Assam boxer is a regular in the national camp and had claimed a gold medal at the 2015 Nation's Cup in Serbia. She hails from a small village in Kokrajhar where several families were displaced during the 2012 riots. Her family was among those displaced by the violence but has since moved on.

Another Assam boxer, Lovlina Borgohain claimed the welterweight (69kg) gold among women, getting the better of compatriot Pojia. In the evening, Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist Pinki Jangra



(51kg) registered a unanimous victory over Mongolia's Jargalan Ochirbat. Manisha (54kg) added to the gold rush for women by claiming the top honours in the all-Indian final against M Meenakumari. But former world champion L Sarita Devi (60kg) settled for a silver medal after losing to Finland's Olympic bronze-medallist Mira Potkenon. Sarita gave her all in the bout but lost on a 2-3 decision after Potkenon salvaged a rather rusty performance with a final round flourish.

In the men's draw, Sanjeet (91kg)

picked up India's first gold of the day when he upstaged Uzbekistan's Sanjar Tursunov.

The Indian matched Tursunov punch for punch in an engrossing contest before getting a split 3-2 verdict in his favour.

National champion Manish Kaushik (60kg), who stunned world and Asian medalist Shiva Thapa yesterday, didn't have to step inside the ring to collect his gold. Manish was given a walkover by his Mongolian rival Battumur Misheel, who pulled out owing to a cut sustained on his forehead during his semifinal bout.

Asian Games bronze medalist

Satish Kumar (+91kg), however, settled for a silver, outwitted by Uzbekistan's Bakhodir Jalolov in a split 4-1 decision.

Dinesh Dagar took the welterweight (69kg) silver after going down to Uzbekistan's Bobo-Usmon Baturov. In perhaps the most entertaining bout of the day, the Uzbek turned on the style against the gritty Indian.

With a smile on his face throughout and a mostly non-existent guard, Baturov was every bit a showman as he craftily got the better of Dinesh in a unanimous verdict.

To his credit, Dinesh connected a few lusty jabs of his own but Baturov was never really troubled. Later, Devanshu Jaiswal (81kg) was up against Cuba's David Gutierrez.

Although the crowd favourite gave a good account of himself in defensive tactics, the Cuban connected enough with his jabs to score a split 4-1 victory.

Former world silver medalist Saaweety Boora (75kg) also had to be content with a second place finish against Cameroon's Essaine Clotilde.

Each gold winner in the USD 100,000 event went home richer by USD 2500. The silver and bronze medal winners were presented USD 1500 and USD 500 respectively.

Class 9 Delhi boy allegedly beaten to death inside a private school toilet by other students

FE Online

New Delhi, Feb. 2: A few months after the murder of 7-year-old Pradyuman Thakur in Gurgaon's Ryan International School, another similar case from the national capital has come to light where a class 9 student was allegedly beaten to death inside a private school's toilet by a group of students in east Delhi. The news was confirmed by the police which said that the boy was identified by the family and they have alleged foul play behind the murder. According to the details provided

by the police, the boy was found dead on Thursday morning at 11 am by fellow students inside the toilet of Jeevan Jyoti Senior Secondary School in Karawal Nagar. The boy was rushed to a nearby private hospital where he was declared brought dead. "During preliminary investigation, there were no visible injury marks found on his body. However, the deceased's family members alleged foul play and said he was beaten up by some students inside the school's toilet," a senior police

officer was quoting saying by India Today.

He added that a case of culpable homicide has been registered not amounting to murder against unknown persons while adding that they are waiting for the postmortem report to ascertain the cause of death. The school management, on the other hand, claims that the boy was suffering from diarrhoea, which led to his death. However, a few students were seen entering the toilet in the CCTV footage. The police suspect these students' role

in the alleged murder and is currently investigating them.

Last year, Pradyuman Thakur was found dead in Gurgaon's Ryan International School. His throat had been slit twice and the school's teachers rushed him to a private hospital from where he was referred to another hospital in Gurgaon where the doctors had declared him 'brought dead'. The incident had led to protests from the parents and the school's management was booked for cruelty against children under the juvenile justice act on September 10, 2017.

Vietnam jails blogger for anti-state propaganda

AP

Hanoi, Feb 2: A court in southern Vietnam has sentenced a doctor to four years in prison for writing and posting dozens of articles on social media that the court said tarnished the image of the country's leaders and instigated people to boycott local elections, state media reported today. Ho Van Hai, 54, was convicted of spreading propaganda against the state at his one-day trial in Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday. He was also sentenced to two years' probation. Thanh Nien newspaper reported. He was accused of writing and posting three dozen articles on his blog and Facebook page that

tarnished and slandered the country's leaders, distorted government policies and instigated people to boycott elections, it said. Hai had blogged under the name BS Ho Hai or Doctor Ho Hai and was arrested in November 2016. Despite economic reforms three decades ago that opened up the communist-ruled country to foreign investment and trade, making it one of fastest growing economies in the region, the one-party state maintains tight control on all aspects of life including the media and has zero tolerance for dissent. Seven people have been convicted

and given prison sentences for spreading propaganda against the state over the past two weeks while two dozen others were sentenced in December for terrorism and subversion.

International human rights groups and some Western governments have criticized Vietnam for punishing those who peacefully express their views. Hanoi maintains that only law breakers are punished.

Blaze in shoe factory in Peeragarhi, fireman injured

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 2: A fire broke out at a shoe factory in Peeragarhi and one fireman was injured during an operation to put out the blaze, the Delhi Fire Services said.

One fireman, Kuldeep, sustained minor injuries to his fingers during the operation. The fire was doused by 10.20 am, he added. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

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