

Editorial

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IMC , now another hurdle to traffic management

Any road sides in crowded Imphal town are parking space for vehicles and Imphal Municipality Corporation (IMC) permits to collect parking fee to specific agent.

When talk about traffic control wing of the state police department remains as hot topic for every concern citizens of the state, Imphal Municipality Corporation has been providing permission to some specific NGOs for collection of parking fee. Proper regulation for parking of vehicles have also been not let known to the vehicle owners and those parking fee collectors allowed vehicles of any kind to park at any place disregarding of how much space of the road has to be restricted.

As of now, no official notification over the allocation of parking space at crowded Thangal Keithel, Paona Keithel, Keishampat area MG Avenue, Khwairambandh Keithel area, Nagamapal etc. has been let known to the general public through any medium. The Imphal Municipality Corporation allowed the agent to collect a sum of Rs.10 per hour for two wheeler vehicles, Rs.20 per hour for three and four wheeler vehicles, Rs.70 to 100 per hour for loaded vehicles and Rs. 30 for DI trucks. Such collection is done at any places of Imphal city and those agents said that they are authorized to collect parking fee by the IMC authority. Traffic problems has been haunting Imphal city for the past many years and till now traffic police are blamed for the menace by critics. Much has been discussed and it has been put to the notice of concern government department many times.

It is true that the rise of vehicles is one problem for mismanagement of traffic regulation. Besides the government's inability to provide proper equipments like electronic traffic signal systems, speed meters and man power is also another factor that create inconveniences to the general public. Above these few things VIP culture of parking anywhere, anytime at any places of the Imphal city is also another trouble face by the general public. These are few of the problems need to be stream line however the way that the IMC is allowing some agents to collect parking fees from any places of the Imphal city need to be check.

How could the IMC allow any place as parking space without properly discussing the matter by convening meeting of the Traffic Regulations & Parking Committee (TRPC)? It has been around 9 months that no meeting of the TRPC has been conducted then how the IMC permit parking at any space could.

Something seems to be not right to the way that some of the IMC authority are issuing permit for collection of parking fee. This needs to be seriously looked into by the present government. Or else the already deteriorated traffic system will turn into the worst.

On the other hand the IMC authority should also issue public notice on which areas are allotted as parking zone and how much space of the road is permitted for parking besides publishing of the name of the NGO or agents who are given permission for collection of parking fee.

National & International News

Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC

PTI Srinagar, Jan 12: Pakistani troops opened fire at Indian positions along the Line of Control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said today. No casualties have been reported so far. "Pakistani troops resorted to

unprovoked firing in Kamalkote area of Uri sector last evening," an Army official said.

The ceasefire violation was effectively retaliated by the Indian Army.

"There was a lull in firing around 2 am but the Pakistani troops resumed firing after day break again," the official said.

Japan PM heads to Europe amid N Korea tensions

AFP Tokyo, Jan 12: Japan's prime minister today headed to the Baltic states and other European nations as he seeks to drum up support for his hawkish stance on North Korea. Despite a recent cooling of tensions in the run-up to the Winter Olympics in South Korea, Shinzo Abe has insisted on "maximising pressure" on Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes. Abe will visit Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania, the first sitting Japanese leader to visit those nations. "I want to confirm our cooperation on North Korean and other urgent issues the international community faces," he told reporters before he left.

Abe, who will meet the heads of the six states on his tour, also noted that representatives from more than 30 companies would accompany him to develop business ties. Japan is keen to raise its profile in the region as China bolsters its ties there.

All six nations Abe is visiting are among the 16 Central and Eastern European countries that hold an annual summit meeting with China. China has been pushing its massive 1 trillion "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which seeks to build rail, maritime and road links from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of ancient Silk Road trading routes. Abe is due to return to Japan on Wednesday.

Art and Artist, a creative space

By : Moirangthem Monali

Manipur, a tiny state in the north-east region of India is well known to the world for its rich cultural heritage in the field of art and culture and sports. Every year Manipur celebrates the Sangai Festival – the biggest festival in the state which is held from 21st till 30th of November. And as a part of it, the 2nd International Imphal Art Camp 2017 was organised by North East Brothers Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. in association with Department of Tourism, Manipur to promote the art of Manipur.

It is important to lay an insight on the art discourse of Manipur before I begin to discuss the works of artists from different parts of the world. Modern art practises in Manipur became active only around the 1970's and this is mainly because of two reasons: first, the establishment of State Kala Academy and second, the setting up of Arts Society Manipur, the only pioneering art organization. Manipur State Kala Academy and Arts Society Manipur has been playing an important role in the art movement of Manipur by organizing various art activities such as seminars, workshops, exhibitions and symposiums. Apart from this, Imphal Art College, the only Fine Art College in the state has also been contributing a major share in the art scene of the region. Due to the advancement of technology, transport system became more easily accessible and as a result, local artists started to move out of Manipur and were being trained from well established institutes of India. After being exposed to the mainstream Indian art, they began to bring in new waves in the contemporary art of Manipur. And these artists began to search for a 'new' identity trying to create their own individual style. Now, let me connect the contemporary art of Manipur with the participants of 2nd International Imphal Art Camp 2017. Imobi Sharma, a well known artist from Manipur is greatly influenced by the Impressionist artist-Gustav Klimt. He incorporates Manipuri elements in his painting and tries to create his own individual style. His works are on great demand in India as well as abroad. Golmei Gandamphu's series of paintings represent the dance forms of Kabuli community to which he belongs. He skillfully employs the brushstrokes with swirls to signify the beautiful dance movements. He expressed the Kabuli dance is losing its foot and desires to preserve it, through his visual representations. Chandam Lalit is more inclined towards the social

issues which prevent him from painting the beauty of nature. Ultimately, he prefers to symbolize the social events through the depiction of female figures with swift brushstrokes. Meena Laishram, the only female artist from Manipur in the Camp who is based in Delhi expressed the fond memories of her childhood days through her canvas. Meena's representation of art is more closer to naive art with the techniques and the elements that she employs.

The visual arts constitute a language and one can approach an image in terms of its formal elements: line, shape, space, colour, light and shade- and consider its aesthetic impact on the viewer. The exhibition provided a space to reflect back on the contemporary art of Manipur as

the creative space together and interact with one another. This very simple yet big step, will definitely contribute for a place in the mainstream Indian art through a larger perspective. After our conversation, Laxman introduced me to other participants from India - Sobha Broota, Nilen Sen Gupta and Prabhakar Kolte and we sat down together over a cup of tea. Sobha was impressed by the natural beauty of Manipur and of the important role that women play in the society. She praised the hard-working nature of the people of Manipur. Sobha works on oil medium using basic techniques and is inclined towards abstract art. I put up a question to her which is both simple and complex 'what does art mean to you?' she replied 'it is difficult to answer and beyond explanation'



love for nature. In his painting, he uses flat planes with bright colours and symbols. Julia Zhukova and Elena Brazhnenko from Russia expressed their love for landscape paintings. To Julia, the streets of Imphal city gave her the inspiration to paint and for Elena, Post-Impressionism influences her works. Emine Tokmakaya, a female artist from Turkey is more into the traditional and mystic concept. Her works focuses on dreams and women. Her painting is more absorbed towards the mystic elements of her cultural background and portrays fish as a good omen. She feels that Indian art and her art has the same concept as both arts are rooted to their traditions. Garry Laurent from Haiti paints as a therapeutic treatment to his country's sufferings. Garry works on acrylic and most of his works are associated with the play of texture. In his painting he depicts Sangai, the state animal of Manipur from where the Sangai Festival takes its' name.

The 2nd International Imphal Art Camp 2017 served as a platform for sharing creative ideas and learning each other's culture and traditions which gave a great impact upon the art fraternity as well as the masses of Manipur. It also played the role of bringing awareness among the intellectuals and common people of Manipur. The camp also gave a space for documenting the artworks of individual artists from across the world. Organizing such camp provides a place for Manipur in the national as well as the international art movement.

Artists, art lovers and the people of Manipur felt the Camp was a laudable experience and expects it with more participation from all disciplines in the future.



it gives an idea on how the viewing public perceived it. And interactions with mainland Indian artists provided a glimpse of it. Getting information that Laxman Aelay was participating in the camp, the next day, I went straight to the hotel lobby and told the receptionist, "Can you please send a message to Laxman Aelay that his daughter's classmate is waiting for him at the lobby." After few minutes, we introduced ourselves and began our talk about his works and the art discourse of Manipur. Coming from the weaver's community of Telangana, Laxman uses local elements to look the world through art. His works are focussed around the socio-political and contemporary situations. He developed his works through his preconceived ideas and subconscious elements. A man of multi talents, he has done video art, photography, installations and logo designs. He feels the contemporary art of Manipur is at its initial stage and need to have discussions, seminars and art documentation more often. On this note, I would also like to urge both young and old artists and people from different walks of life to share

instantly, Prabhakar turned to me and said 'that is the answer to your question.' And we all had a good laugh together. The nature of art has been a vexing question for centuries and it has been discussed by artists, poets, philosophers and others. Their views have given us an insight into the creative process but they have not produced a universally acceptable definition of 'art'.

My second interaction session was with foreign participants from South Korea, Russia, Turkey and Haiti. Song Keun Young, female artist from South Korea uses traditional techniques and concepts. She uses Korean ink and paper which she either makes it by herself or buys it from the market. Her paintings depict the love of reading by the noble man in his study room. To Kim In Tae, Manipur reflects his childhood neighbourhood scene. He paints on acrylic medium and expressed his

Minimum temperature rises in Punjab, Haryana

PTI Chandigarh, Jan 12: Minimum temperatures in several parts of Punjab and Haryana rose today even as Adampur recorded the coldest weather at a low of 5.4 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperatures, both in Punjab and Haryana, hovered between one to four degrees Celsius above normal, a MeT official said today. "On an average the minimum temperatures rose by up to two notches at many parts of the region", the MeT official said. After Adampur, Bathinda shivered

at a low of 5.6 degrees Celsius, one notch above normal.

And where Bhiwani settled at a low of 6.4 degrees Celsius, the minimum at Faridkot was registered a close 6.5 degrees Celsius.

Among other places, Sirsa had a low of 6.6 degrees Celsius followed by 6.7 degrees Celsius at Rohtak, 7 degrees Celsius at Hisar, 7.5 degrees Celsius at Amritsar — three notches above normal.

Similarly, the temperature was 8 degrees Celsius at Karnal and 9.4 degrees Celsius at Patiala, which resulted to be one and three notches above normal, respectively.

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