

# Editorial

Friday, March 2, 2018

## Understanding the origin and essence

**Yaoshang**- as the festival of colour is locally known is just around the corner. Arguably the most anticipated festival will be celebrated by young and old alike without exceptions to caste, creed or faith in a day's time. And as with everything that has gone through the changes brought about by time, the manner of celebration has undergone a sea change from how it was a decade ago. The five day cultural extravaganza which used to be predominantly about playing with colours by the boys and stopping of passersby for contributions by the girls during the daytime while the evenings were marked by Thabal Chongba - the traditional dance where finely decked girls dance with the boys to the lilting music, have undergone changes which have started raising eyebrows and concerns.

Playing with colours and spraying with coloured water on passersby have given way to splashing of dirty and smelling water which have resulted in frequent quarrels and more unfortunately to unwanted accidents. While the state security and traffic police personnel have stepped up their vigil to prevent unwanted incidents and curb excesses during the festival, the trend for the youth to abuse the festive spirit and indulge in excesses have been on the increase. Triple riding on two wheelers, speeding, incessant honking, throwing water balloons at passing motorists and four wheeled vehicles packed beyond their stated capacity have come to be the norm rather than the exception and a definite recipe for disaster.

Another recent trend that has the social media buzzing is the fact that young girls have already started stopping motorists to demand contributions even during peak traffic hours at various places well before the festival even began. While there is some section of the society expressing or rather suggesting the observation of the festival for two or three days instead of the five days as is being done at present, these young girls are putting their own lives at risk as well as the safety of the unsuspecting motorists. Being passionate about anything is generally good, but when the passion becomes excessive or out of control, the outcome is almost always undesirable.

Another aspect of the festival that has started to evoke more criticisms is that of the unearthly hours into which the Thabal Chongba is being dragged on. While the nocturnal revelers might very well be having a great time with the gradually extending period of celebration, for those who are trying to get some rest and quiet, and more importantly those who are not in the best of health, the shrill noise of the loudspeakers could very well escalate the condition.

It would not be possible for the government machinery to keep the society in check during such festive periods. It is for everyone of us to voluntarily shoulder our responsibilities and try to control our near and dear ones. A good way to start would be to make the young generation understand the origin and essence of such festivals to enable them to celebrate the occasions in the right spirit and attitude.

## Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Obou Lorho Mao** of Rikhumai Taphou, P.O. Senapati, P.S. Senapati, Senapati District, Pin - 795106, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Obou Lorho**, as I have assumed my new name **Obou Lorho Mao**.

Sd/-  
**Obou Lorho Mao**

## Regional News

### Media OPD clinic conducted by Ayurvedic doctors

**IT News**  
**Guwahati:** A group of Ayurvedic doctors based in the city conducted the weekly OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club on 28 February 2018, where over 30 media persons received free healthcare consultations from the attending physicians. Led by Dr Bhabesh Das (Principal of Government Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari) the group of doctors including Dr KC Barman, Dr SK Chakrabarty and Dr Neelakshi Devi Chaudhury also facilitated to check the blood pressure of the participants. Organized for the benefit of press

club members along with their close relatives, the last camp on 23 February was graced by a group of dentists led by Dr Birendra Nath Patgiri. On the other hand, the next media clinic will be conducted by the doctors of Apollo Hospital, Guwahati. The weekly health camps have been supported by most of Assam based hospitals namely Down Town Hospitals, GNRC Hospitals, Dispur Hospital, Barthakur Clinic, Wintrobe Hospital, Nemcare Hospital, Sun Valley Hospital, Ayursundra Hospital, Excelcare Hospital, Rahman Hospital, Narayana Super-Specialty Hospitals etc.

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## The Problem of Syria — and a Solution

By Lawrence Wittner  
(Courtesy: Huffpost)

Let us consider the worst: that, in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the subsequent Chemical Weapons Convention, the Syrian government has used chemical weapons to massacre large numbers of people. If true, that is a real problem, for it is not only a dastardly act, but a clear violation of international law that, if left unopposed, will encourage further use of these abhorrent weapons. But will the U.S. government's lobbying cruise missiles into Syria provide a solution to the problem? That seems unlikely, for that action will not topple the Syrian government, eliminate that regime's large chemical weapons stockpile, or hasten an end to the brutal Syrian civil war which provided (and still provides) the context for their use. Indeed, unilateral U.S. military action seems likely to add to the bloodshed in Syria, worsen U.S. relations with the Syrian regime's major arms supplier and defender (Russia), and further inflame the volatile Middle East. Once again, the U.S. government will be acting like a Wild West vigilante and will face very dangerous consequences. In recent decades, many people around the world have grown accustomed to seeing the United States behave like a trigger-happy nation, intervening militarily whenever its officials feel U.S. "national interests" are threatened. Rallying around the flag, many Americans have come to perceive the United States as a uniquely

virtuous country — the savior of the world or, at least, the world's policeman. At the same time, many other people, often in foreign lands, have concluded that the United States is the world's bully. But however one views the unilateral employment of U.S. military power, it is unsustainable. No nation has sufficient worldwide credibility or resources to rule the world. Despite the demagogic, flag-waving ranting of many cynical U.S. politicians and pundits, increasing numbers of Americans realize this and, consequently, are willing to pass along global responsibility and burdens to a global organization. For better or worse, that global organization is the United Nations, to which the nations of the world (including the United States) have granted the formal authority for enforcing international law. In response to the international anarchy and vast destruction of World War II, the United Nations came out of the war with the official goal of providing the world with some degree of governance, especially in relation to matters of war and peace. Thus, the United Nations is the organization that should be calling the tune in Syria — not only responding to the Syrian government's alleged use of chemical weapons, but facilitating an end to Syria's terrible civil war, which has expanded into a regional conflict. Yes, the United Nations is pathetically weak, largely because, in the post-1945 era, the "great

powers" have clung greedily to their bloated national prerogatives on the world scene. Crippled by this very limited support to it from the major military-industrial powers, the United Nations has all too often been unable to enforce international law or to carry out the many other tasks of a world organization. But it does have worldwide credibility and an internationally-recognized voice that individual governments cannot entirely ignore. In addition, if the major powers threw their support behind a strengthening of the United Nations, that organization could become a very important force for disarmament and peace. In the Syrian situation, for example — as one of the world's oldest peace organizations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has proposed — U.N. inspectors could be empowered to complete their investigation of whether chemical weapons were used and, then, to determine who used them. Meanwhile, a U.N. Security Council resolution could be sought to secure the turnover to the United Nations of any chemical weapons in possession of the warring parties. The Russian government, although a strong supporter of the Syrian regime, might well agree to this, as it has long supported prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. Furthermore, the Security Council could refer the issue of chemical weapons use to the International Criminal Court, which could further investigate and indict the perpetrators. At the same

time, the United Nations could convene a peace conference that would bring together representatives of all groups on the ground, countries in the region, and the United States and Russia to negotiate a ceasefire and a political resolution to the bloody Syrian conflict. Would this kind international approach work? Perhaps so; perhaps not. But it seems at least as promising a route toward the enforcement of international law and the implementation of a peaceful settlement to the war in Syria as simply raining more bombs upon that nation. And it would be considerably less destructive. Finally, it is the kind of approach to which the nations of the world have at least given lip service — unlike a military attack upon Syria without U.N. authorization, which would itself be a violation of international law. Of course, this sort of international approach would require that nations, particularly the major powers, stop their military meddling in other lands and turn over a bit of their precious sovereignty to the United Nations, as they had promised to do when creating it back in 1945. But a more peaceful, better-governed world would be well worth that price, wouldn't it? (Lawrence S. Wittner (<http://lawrencswittner.com>) is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany. His latest book is a satirical novel about university corporatization and rebellion, "What's Going On at UAardvark?")

## National & International News

### Delhi Design Runway Initiative promoting khadi started with North east Preview

IT News

**New Delhi, March 2:** Delhi Fashion Club (DFC), Fashion, Textiles and Youth Promotion association, Recently did announcement Party of their new Initiative - Delhi Design Runway in Club BW at 5 star - The Surya Hotel, New Delhi - Which celebrates the cultural diversity of a country which has been a beacon of light for its superlative craftsmanship, Art, ingenious textile, Khadi and different techniques of fabric production. This event aims to combining Fashion and Art on one platform. Promoting not only the young designers but Painters, Sculptures & artists as well, along with Khadi and Sustainable fashion in an innovative way.

The Logo of the event was revealed by Top Social personality Mr. Aman Bhandari, Director, La crème Productions and Club BW along with Mr. Ratnadeep Lal, Director, IIFT (International Institute of Fashion Technology) and Fashion director & chairman, DFC Mr. Harshit Dhingra, all have been pioneer in advisory board of many fashion weeks and events world wide. During logo revealing a fashion preview was organized in which



models promoted North eastern handmade accessories from Naga tribe, promoting the cause of Handlooms, Handicrafts and Khadi promotion. Preview showcased accessories made by sinrukhi sisters - Tokila and malakhi from Manipur Naga community. During the event, Chairman of Delhi Fashion Club, Mr. Harshit Dhingra said "This is not just an event but a series of event which is going to bring youth, fashion intellectuals, buyers, handloom authorities, artists, designers and industry experts together on one platform for a better future, we are going to involve more than 5 fashion & art colleges every season. Also keeping in view to promote North Eastern Textiles and

Youth, for which Delhi Fashion club have been appreciated by government of India as well, we are giving special attention to north east designers both formally trained and self made designers fully sponsored."

This event consists of many eminent personalities from Fashion world such as Ms Rose alisha super model from Sikkim based in Delhi, Business women Kiran prakash, Politician Mr. Vikram Mittal, event organizer sanjay singh and businessmen upwan chabra. Make up was sponsored by Guneeet makeovers and hair by la vivo hairstyling, hospitality partner Club BW, Stage sponsor Aventz by sanjay singh, Talent partners La crème talent and productions, institutional partner IIFT.

### Thoubal Battalion Conducts 'Know Your Assam Rifles' Interaction

IT News

**Imphal, March 2:** 26 Assam Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR(South) conducted a 'Know Your Assam Rifles' interaction with the locals at Thoubal. The event included career counseling for the children, interaction on various aspects involving Assam Rifles and a weapon display. The children took keen interest in the Career Guidance Cell established during the event wherein more than 600 students of various schools clarified their doubts. The children and locals expressed their gratitude to the Assam Rifles personnel for organizing the event.

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