

# Editorial

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

## The unintended windfall

The tenacity of the people of Manipur to cling on to concepts of normalcy while actually indulging in acts that reaps results to the contrary can only be marveled at. We profess unity while setting up and supporting ethnically intolerant groups. We demand peace while burning and inciting violence. We insist on freedom even when we are indulging in extortions and intimidations, and we ask understanding of others according to our own terms and views.

We publicly donate only to claim it back in private. Perhaps the present social churning threatening to alter the social fabric of the state is an event whose time has come. Maybe we all have been contributing, albeit unwittingly, to its present condition. But all is not so dark or dismal.

There are changes, unintended fallouts that promise to yank the people from the stupor and the self-deceiving delusions of superiority. There are signs of the people awakening to the realities staring them back in the face, even if that reality is not very savory or one everyone have expected or desired. We have come to participate in social discussions and debates, and have slowly yet surely started to learn to air our vows, never mind fact that, more often than not, large number of such views and personal opinions reflect the underlying ethnic leanings and are unnecessarily abrasive and harmful.

This is, after all, a starting phase to the trend of social participation and will hopefully learn from the mistakes, and with time, to polish up on one's thoughts and outlooks. The most significant outcome is perhaps the increased awareness not only of one's own history, tradition and customs, but also of other communities as well. There is also a tangible change in the manner in which the public consume resources. The sustained lack of facilities have evidently stirred the curiosity and raised the enthusiasm of the public. There is an increased effort by various groups and individuals to usher in self reliance, especially with regards to food. If the well-meaning but clueless state government can harness the present agitations and unrest, then perhaps we can channelize the energy into something productive instead of playing the reluctant leader. It may be hard to admit for a lot of self-appointed leaders and undeserving representatives, but one cannot deny the fact that at the root of the present turmoil is economic considerations. The sooner we admit and understand that, the easier will it be to work out a solution.

Times are changing, hopefully for the better. With increased awareness, participation and enthusiasm, it is now the duty of everyone in the state to take up the cudgel and wield it productively, and not to batter each other until nothing remains. Every life is precious, and in order for all of us to make our existence worthwhile, we first need to snap out of the illusion of superiority of language, caste, creed, clan, religion and customs.

## 18-year-old athlete allegedly commits suicide at JLN stadium

Agency  
New Delhi Nov 14,

Palender Chaudhary, an 18-year-old sprinter who represented India at international level, allegedly committed suicide and was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in the athletics academy at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. No reason for his death has been established by the police yet.

A friend of the deceased first saw him hanging from his room's ceiling when he came to meet him on Tuesday and raised the alarm. His coach and a few guards took him to the stadium's medical centre and from there he was brought to SJ Hospital for treatment yesterday night. Doctors declared him dead on Wednesday morning.

Chaudhary, who was practising and living in the JLN stadium for the last two months, has represented India

in 100 and 200-metre race at international level and participated in the Youth Asia Athletic meet in Bangkok in 2017.

An official of Sports Authority of India (SAI) told ANI that the young sprinter had an argument with his father the previous morning. "I was told he had an argument on phone with his father in the morning yesterday. Later his sister came to talk to him too. Unfortunately, we could not save him despite our best efforts," the official said. Mahesh Pal, Palender's father, arrived at the hospital from Aligarh this morning. "He told me he needed money. I assured him that I will give him the money. I don't know what happened later. I've no complaints against the people at the stadium," he told ANI.

The reason of death is being probed. No suicide note was found during the police investigation.

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## Bloody Phanek Wins Special Mention Award at Signs Festival 2018.



IT News  
Imphal Nov 14,

Bloody Phanek has won the Special Mention Award at the recently concluded SIGNS Festival in Kerala. Directed and produced by Sonia Nepam, the film explores the multifaceted world of phanek and will further be screened at multiple global festivals in the coming two months.

SIGNS, which was held in the first week this month in Trichur, showcased national level competitions for documentaries and short fiction for the prestigious John Abraham National Awards instituted by the Kerala Region of Federation of Film Societies of India.



In December, Bloody Phanek will be screened at the Kathmandu Mountain International Film Festival in Kathmandu, Nepal and the Pakistan International Mountain Film Festival in Islamabad, Pakistan. Then in January 2019, it will be screened at the Peloponnissos Documentary Film Festival which is scheduled to be held in Greece. Bloody Phanek is a documentary film on phanek that blends the personal and the political. It starts from a personal impression that began from the earliest

concept of impurity and how this attire challenges masculinity.

Bloody Phanek is produced and directed by Sonia Nepam and cinematography and editing by Sandeep Soubam. The film was successfully selected for pitching at the Dodegde Kolkata, Asian Forum for Documentary held in March 2015. The film is supported by Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) Film Festival, South Korea, where it was released as a world premiere. Bloody Phanek had also received outreach support from Mumbai-based DocEdge Chandy Mathew.

## Countdown to International Polo 2018 begins

By: Wahengbam Tiken  
IT News  
Imphal Nov, 14

The 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Polo International 2018, organized as part of the Sangai Festival will kick off from November 22 and will go on till November 29. Altogether six teams, India A (IPA), India B (Manipur), Uruguay, USA, England And Haiti will be participating in this year's edition. The Manipur team will be represented by P. Ojit of X-Polo Club, T. Pradeep Singh of MPSC, S. Bimol Singh of MPSC, Th Kaoba of Chingkhieuhba Polo Club, Th Jacob of X-Polo Club and T. Leishemba of Chingkhieuhba Polo Club. Let's get to know the players representing the Manipur polo team, first up Tourem Pradeepkumar Singh. Tourem Pradeepkumar Singh - A profile Multi-talented sports person Tourem Pradeepkumar Singh, 35 years, hailing from Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, who captained the winning Manipur team (India B) in the last edition of the Manipur Polo International, will once again play an important role in defending the trophy this year. Besides polo, Pradeep has won gold in tent pegging in the All India Police Equestrian Meet 2008, a gold in

National endurance championship in 2012 and a silver in the International Endurance championship in 2013. He has also represented the state in rowing in the 2001 and 2003 National games. Sports run in the family of Pradeepkumar, father, a national football player, was known as 'phaklang Bidhu', for his formidable defending skills, elder brother Ashok is a national level body builder, another brother Premkumar is a Karateka and younger brother Anilkumar is a national level rower.

Pradeepkumar, who started riding a horse around the age of 17, made his polo debut in Junior State Level Polo Tournament, 1994, was part of the Khurai Polo Club, winner of the Governor's Cup in 1996. In 2007, he joined 5<sup>th</sup> IRB as a rifleman and that was the time he left rowing and other sports to concentrate on polo. He has been part of the winning India B team of the Manipur Polo International tournament from 2012 to 2014, after a break of one year was back in 2016 and 2017.

In 2003, Pradeepkumar went as part of the MHRPA team to Kolkata, was a member of the Manipur team, which won a tournament at Drass in 2012 under very trying



condition. In 2016 defeated the ASC team in Lucknow even though the team was playing on thoroughbred horses for the first time.

On being asked how the government can intervene to popularize the game of polo, Pradeep feels that as maintaining a horse is a very expensive business, the state government should extend financial assistance for their upkeep. And more importantly, he stressed the need to ensure that each districts has a grazing ground, which will go a long way in saving the Manipuri pony from extinction.

Coming to the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Polo International 2018, "me and my teammates will give everything to bring glory to Manipur and win the trophy this time also", said Pradeep. In these few days leading up to the tournament the team members will put in rigorous practice to polish their skills and to develop much needed understanding under the guidance of the coach and the manager, confided Pradeep. He also appealed to the people of Manipur to pray for the success of the team and give their blessings.

## PPFA urges PM Modi to defuse tension in Assam

By Our Correspondent  
Guwahati, Nov 14

Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA), while expressing serious concern over mounting tensions between two valleys of the State in the recent past, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take personal initiative in defusing relentless worries among the residents. The forum of nationalist citizens asserted that few anti-national elements were working against the social harmony where the State government in Dispur shockingly remains silent. It may be noted that on the backdrop of Centre's citizenship amendment initiative in favour of religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the State witnessed an uproarious situation, where most of the Assamese speaking residents in Brahmaputra valley opposed it and those of Barak valley supported the move. Lately a section of authors, editor-journalists, former militants and social activists have explained the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 in a biased manner for repeated times that the

bill would be applicable for Assam only and once it is passed in the Parliament millions of Hindu Bangladeshi families would arrive in the State demanding Indian citizenship and the process would continue until India is made a land of Hindus.

"A protester has the right to own point of view according to put his/her game plan and that also may be published in newspapers or telecast through news channels. But the authority should promptly respond to any biased views and clarify the government position.

Otherwise, the common people would be misinformed and they might get confused," said a PPFA statement.

The forum expresses unhappiness that the State government was yet to make effective arrangements to enlighten the locals about the citizenship bill. The debates around the bill continue revolving with half truths and motivated facts, which had only increased the anxiety of Assamese people in the last few months, claimed the statement. "We donot know what has

prevented the State government (read chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal) from clarifying to the people that most of the agitators in Brahmaputra valley were debating with imaginary facts. Sonowal should (could) have taken some initiatives to counter the campaign with disinformation and finally educate the people about actual contents of the bill," added the statement.

Taking advantage of the chief minister's silence over the citizenship bill, many started raising voices in full public view that Sonowal must clarify his stand (whether he is with the locals or Bangladeshi people). Even the separatist elements like United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) has reportedly stepped into the trouble water to get advantage of the situation, where the rift between the Assamese and Bengali communities turn more visible.

The banned militant outfit may even try to mislead the Assamese community in Brahmaputra valley with the argument that the said bill

is an imposition of New Delhi over Assam following the diktat of Bengali elements.

Hence the forum appealed to Prime Minister to clarify that the concerned bill is not at all Assam centric and there is no provision for inviting more Bangladeshi citizens after 31 December 2014. Public meetings, media advertisements and putting hearings in responsive localities may be some effective ways for disseminating the information, stated the forum adding that PM Modi should somehow address growing anxieties of the Assamese community. "We prefer a healthy debate over the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 across the country. As Assam is boiling over the issue, the people here should get enlightened first about the bill so that they can participate in the debate with facts avoiding unnecessary emotions. Otherwise the discourses might affect the existing communal harmony among various linguistic, religious and ethnic groups, for which Assam is recognized since time immemorial," concluded the statement.