

# Editorial

Friday, November 15, 2019

## Smart city or smart earning for those in the power !!!

Just when the state is all set to propel itself into one of the most well-governed in the country as was unfailingly promised at every election campaigns, the lust for power and pelf yielded spoilsport, yet again. The dreams of a smart city peddled by the powerful few who decides the destiny of this insignificant state from the cocooned comfort at the country's capital has been keeping the people of Manipur on a dream and a prayer for so long. Hopefully, things are starting to move in the right direction once again, notwithstanding the fact that the pace of progress is anything but inspiring to put it mildly. And amidst the glimmer of hope, the ever present strife and tussle for power within the ruling party is posing a serious threat to the nascent dream of the collective public and the real masters have to step in once again to bring some semblance of normalcy in the ranks of the elected representatives of the state. No one is certain which way the wind will blow but the need to put an end to such self-degrading attitudes and irresponsible conduct has been felt by one and all for a while now. And the sooner the better else every little progress we have witnessed will literally go down the drain.

Promises and assurances are no substitutes for concrete results which is what the impatient public has been longing for. We have seen promising starts and convincing displays of intent but the follow through and the political integrity to deliver as promised has been largely dismal. For a party which sparked the spirit of change in the public, the feeling of needing that wee bit more push and alacrity to the activities has been present, and the present volatile political situation is not helping matters none.

The concept of a smart city is a fantastic one whose time has come, and there is no denying the fact that integration and synchronization of activities and information is the only way in which the government can effectively take the state forward. Yet previous attempts at modernization (read installation of CCTVs) turned out to be a farce designed to profit a few at the expense of the taxpayers. No one has ever been held responsible for the deception. Automated traffic signals at majority of the junctions barring those at the heart of the city remain ineffective and unmanned. Waste disposal remains a smelly issue in more ways than one, and the concept of segregation of waste which is the basic step towards proper disposal of waste is still unknown to most public, and nor has there been any perceivable effort on the part of the government to educate and inform the general public regarding the same. Secure parking facilities around the city for cycles, as well as dedicated and safe cycle tracks which would encourage a lot of the public to turn to cycling as an alternative, healthy and cost-effective means of transport needs to be developed at the earliest to reduce pollution and congestion which is becoming a big issue right now. Motorcades for VIPs and VVIPs should be trimmed down to the bare minimal for obvious reasons, and stricter scrutiny and inspection of workings of every government departments should be undertaken to reduce corruption and increase productivity. Regular and timely updates of information in the respective websites of the various departments will go a long way in achieving this objective.

Smart does not necessarily equate to having quick witted intelligence and advanced political manoeuvres. A diligent and sincere approach towards the task at hand, a systematic and honest appraisal of activities and prioritizing responsibilities over privileges will set things for the right course. Perhaps a tall order for the present crop of confused, conceited and conniving souls with the penchant for begging the public once in a while for the chance to 'serve' them but ends up getting served instead.

### Correction

I, GD-4109434A Rank :-NB/Sub. 4th Assam Rifles, Sajik Tampak do hereby declare that my wife and my son's name has been wrongly recorded as (1) P Manglembi Devi (wife), (2) P. Sushilkumar Singh (1st Son) and (3) P Sanamatum Singh as nominee of my service. It should be recorded as (1) Puyam Manglembi Devi (wife) (2) Puyam Sushilkumar Singh (1st Son) and (3) Puyam Sanamatum Singh (2nd Son) all records as nominee of service in my service, for my future reference.

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## 2-Days Workshop on Law Enforcement and Countering Wildlife Trafficking Minister Shyamkumar acknowledges threat on forest officials combating wildlife trafficking

DIPR  
Imphal, Nov. 15

Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar has said that he acknowledged the problems and threats faced by the Forest Department officials while countering wildlife trafficking in the State.

Speaking on the inaugural function of the 2 days workshop on Law Enforcement and Countering Wildlife Trafficking for the frontline field staff of Forests, Wildlife, Assam Rifles, Paramilitary Forces and Manipur Police in the State of Manipur held at main conference hall, Forest Head Office, Sanjenthong, Imphal on Thursday. The workshop is being organised by the Wildlife Wing, Forest Department in association with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India. It is concluded today. Stating that Forest department has adequate manpower, the Minister said that the department needs



support of the State police and paramilitary forces in dealing with any matter related to trafficking/smuggling as the Forest officials are unarmed. He further said the law enforcing agencies need to thoroughly check the porous border areas to prevent wildlife trafficking. He said he is optimistic that the issue can be dealt

with joint collaboration between the Forest Department, State police and paramilitary forces. Suhel Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Environment) said that as smuggling of wildlife activities are still continuing in the State and stressed on the need for such kind of workshops in all the districts including the Divisional

Forest Officer, police and paramilitary forces of the place. He also stressed on the need to strengthen the legal action against those involving in wildlife trafficking.

In the technical session held in the afternoon, DP Bankhwal, IFS (Retd), Government of Assam spoke on the topic 'role of paramilitary services in countering wildlife trafficking'. Aditi Ranjan, Conservation Biologists spoke on the 'introduction to wildlife trafficking', Anirban Chaudhari, Field Biologists spoke on 'commonly trafficked wildlife animals and products' and MI Varghese, IFS (Retd.) spoke on introduction to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which was followed by question and answer session.

K. Angami, PCCF and HoFF, Shri DJN Anand, PCCF (Wildlife), officials of the Forest Department, scientists from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), officials from Manipur Police, Assam Rifles also attended the inaugural day.

## Manju Diler visits Ccpur, takes stock of manual Labourers' Plight

DIO  
CCPUR, Nov. 14

Taking cognizance of the plights of Safai Karamcharis of Churachandpur, Smt Manju Diler, Member, National Commission for Safai Karamcharis today directed DLOs concerned to extend benefits to manual labourers/sanitary workers/sweepers.

Addressing a press meet after a meeting with DLOs at the Conference Hall of DC's Office here, Smt. Manju Diler said she directed the DLOs to ensure that the workers get proper uniform/gum boots etc and ensure the workers to have working hours as per guidelines and norms. She also urged the DLOs concerned to extend benefits such as provident fund, health care facilities and get connected the workers with various Govt welfare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Chief Minister Hakselgi Tengbang.

Besides, the Hon'ble Minister also urged the DLOs concerned to organise health camp for the workers at least twice a year and other awareness camps for their welfare.

Prior to her meeting with the DLOs and the press, Smt. Manju Diler met the sanitary workers of the district at the Town Office of ADC Churachandpur office. It may be mentioned that there are about 31 Safai Karamcharis in Churachandpur district out of which just one is a regular employee while the others are contractual employees.

The Member also planted trees to commemorate her visit to the district at DTC premises, Tuibong.

DC Churachandpur Pawan Yadav, Additional DC Thangboi Gange, CEO of ADC Churachandpur TK Simte and other DLOs accompanied the Member in the tree plantation programme.

## Chameli Memsahab to be screened at GPC

By Correspondent  
Guwahati, Nov 15

Paying tributes to legendary cultural revolutionary Dr. Bhupen Hazarika on his 8th death anniversary, an acclaimed feature film titled Chameli Memsahab will be screened at Guwahati Press Club (GPC) on Saturday (16 November 2019 at 5 pm). Directed by Inder Sen, the 1979 movie (Bengali) has music by Bhupen-da where casts include George Baker, Rakhee Gulzar, Anil Chatterjee, Gita Dey, Abha Dhulia, Tarun Kumar, Chinmoy Roy etc.

Bhupen-da along with Hemant Kumar, Asha Bhosle, Usha Mangeshkar, Aarti Mukherjee etc lent their voices in different songs.

It was a remake of the Assamese movie Chameli Memsahab, which is based on a short story of eminent author-journalist Nirod Choudhury. Released in 1975, the critically acclaimed movie was directed by well-known performer Abdul Majid, whereas George Baker and Binita Borgohain played the lead roles. The well-admired movie brought the national award for best music direction (by Bhupen-da) for the first time to Assam's film-world.

## ONE India award to Choden Lepcha



By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 15

"Our North East (O.N.E.) India award for 2019 was presented by Maharashtra Governor Bhagar Singh Koshyarito social activist and novelist from Sikkim Choden Lepcha at a glittering function held at Veer Savarkar National Memorial at Shivaji Park, Dadar West, in Mumbai on Wednesday. The O.N.E. India award instituted in recognition of Choden Lepcha's work in the field of culture, education and welfare of the Lepcha community. Soden Lepcha has been engaged in alcohol and drug addiction work and has been fighting for the welfare of the Lepcha community since long. The award comprised Rs one lakh, a memento and a scroll of honour. On the occasion the Governor complimented 'My Home India' for its efforts in bringing about emotional integration of the people of North East with the rest of the country. He applauded Choden Lepcha for matching her novel

writings with noble social work. Former Governor of Tripura and Bihar Dr D Y Patil, founder of 'My Home India' Sunil Deodhar, Chairman of Saraswat Bank Gautam Thakur and Vice-Chancellor of Central University Bilaspur Dr Anjila Gupta, Shrawan Jha, CEO, My Home India were prominent among those present.

While replying to the felicitation Choden Lepcha dedicated the award to the Lepcha community. "I came from a small village of Sikkim to Mumbai by an aeroplane for the first time. I saw a bungalow of mega star Amitabh Bachchan. I felt like I was in a dream land. This award has increased my responsibility. I promise to do more work when I return to Sikkim. I could not take higher education, but I am happy that the organisation like 'My Home India' has been extending helping hand" she said.

ONE India award is presented every year to an outstanding achiever who has worked for North eastern states and to further bolster nationalistic feeling all across North eastern states.

## Combined annual training camp conducted by 14(m) BN NCC, imphal

PIB (DW)  
Imphal, Nov 15

Combined Annual Training Camp - 86 of 14 (M) Bn NCC, Imphal was terminated on 13 Nov 2019. This camp was attended by 360 NCC cadets from all over the Manipur State. During the camp, NCC cadets were given training on various military activities like Drills, Map Reading, Marching, Field Craft, Battle Craft, Physical Training, Firing, Sports, Yoga and Games.

The ten day camp gave exposure to the cadets in terms of various lectures and demonstrations by multiple departments to include Fire Fighting Department, Traffic Control department, Health Department, State Disaster Management of Manipur State. The Sainik School, Imphal, SP, Imphal (West) and CMO, Imphal

(West) supports, security and Medical Cover respectively to the cadets, attending the camp. The 15 Assam Rifles , IGAR(S) and 357 Fd Hospital, Red Shield Division provided additional support to the NCC camp. During the closing ceremony, awards and prizes were given to the cadets for their excellent performance in various events like Firing, Tug of war, Musical chair, Debate, Extempore speech, Group Discussion, Drill and Quiz competition. Addressing to the cadets, Brig RS Sethi, Group Commander NCC GP HQ, Imphal said that 'NCC cadets should be a role model for others in their society, community, locality and area, they should put in their best efforts with discipline, dedication and devotion'. The camp was culminated with a colourful cultural programme by the cadets.