

# Editorial

Friday, November 22, 2019

## Do the needful; make sure that Sangai festival success

When Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh invited the representatives of Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and when the representatives of COCOMI accepted the invitation and met the Chief Minister yesterday evening, a sign of relieved was felt to the people of the state speculating that the talk would bring some changes to the ongoing alert demonstration campaign giving a chance to the upcoming Sangai Festival. But the speculation went in vain as the COCOMI's leadership, soon after coming out from the Chief Minister's bungalow announced no changes to their stand. The COCOMI which have been demanding disclosure of the content of the agreement reached between the NSCN-IM and the Government of India, had called on people of the state not to take part in the upcoming Sangai Festival.

Sangai Festival is today a calendar event to boost tourism industries in the state of Manipur. It is today not only a backbone of the state economy but is a platform for exposing the rich cultural heritage of this state to the International arena. The state government was heard talking about the potential of Sangai Festival many times but what is disheartening is that the government of Manipur doesn't seem to consider this event as top agenda. Simply organizing the festival amidst boycott from civil society body of the state or without participation of locals will have no significance. The failure to convince the COCOMI representatives about the importance of making the Sangai Festival a successful tourism festival is indeed a reflection of the attitude of this government headed by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh who once received thousands applause for his skill in tackling public issues.

What prompted the COCOMI to announce the hard stand on Sangai Festival is not known, but all that we in the Imphal Times understand is that the COCOMI representatives might received some form of aggressive response from the government. The response from the COCOMI's representatives to accept the invitation was perhaps a green signal to any negotiation perhaps for relaxation to the Sangai Festival, or else they would not have accepted as the leaders of the COCOMI had already stated through media that unless the government is ready to disclose the details of the agreement reached between the NSCN-IM and the Government of India there is no point of holding dialogues.

October 31 was what prompted the civil society bodies of the state who never wanted Manipur to be divided to come out on the street. Of course there seem no concert decision or stand of the government of India to the demand so far put up by the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs, but media reports on the following days of October 31, even after the clarification made by the Union Home Minister through PIB, created apprehension to the people of the state about its future. However, recently media reports base on various sources now seem that the Government of India is likely to take some more weeks or months for signing of the final agreement. Amidst the confusion, Arunachal Pradesh MP Tapir Goa is raising a question in the ongoing Parliament Session to details the process of the people talk with the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs. Had there been a final solution the agreement should have been listed in the business of the Parliament so that it be passed by the house. It is common sense that any agreement signed will have no meaning unless it is tabled in the parliament. Tapir Goa Questions regarding the process of the peace deals with the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs clearly showed that a final settlement will not arrived in the ongoing parliament session which will concludes on December first week.

There are parliamentary experts in the state government and they are paid to study such situation and the development even if the Government of India did not disclosed the content of the details of Naga issue. It could have been easier to convince that the settlement will take some more time but with a convincing tone and that the COCOMI leadership could have been requested to relax the agitation.

Better late than never, make another convincing announcement by revealing the recent development on Naga deal in consultation with the Union Ministry, so that the COCOMI at least give way for organizing the Sangai Festival which is the only sustainable resource for the state of Manipur.

## Declaration

I, Kuki Ngaminsat Khongsai (presently serving as Rifleman of 8<sup>th</sup> Assam Regiment, Shillong, Army No. 4377149Y), son of Kuki Tijangam Khongsai, a resident of Lancheing Village, P.O. & P.S. Suguu, Chakpikarong Tahsil, Chandel district, Manipur, do hereby declare that I got married to Sagolsem Anupama Devi, and that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned my old religion Christianity, as I have adopted to a new religion Hinduism. I also declare that I have shifted my residence permanently at Mayang Imphal Thana Maning Khunou, P.O. & P.S. Mayang Imphal, District- Imphal West, Manipur.

Sd/-  
Kuki Ngaminsat Khongsai

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## Cinematic excellence at 50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival



By - Raju Vernekar

The 50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India got off to a colourful start at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in door stadium at Panaji, Goa on Wednesday, ending the long wait of cinephiles across the world.

At a grand ceremony hosted by Bollywood film Director Karan Johar, the megastar Amitabh Bachchan and the 'Thalaiva' of Indian film industry Rajinikanth flagged off the extravaganza and announced the festival open, in the presence of Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar and other official dignitaries. Rajinikanth was conferred with the 'Icon Of Golden Jubilee Award' for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, while Amitabh Bachchan was felicitated for his 50 years filmy career.

Rajinikanth expressed his happiness to receive the prestigious award from Amitabh Bachchan and dedicated it to all the producers, directors and technicians who worked in his films, his fans and people of Tamil Nadu. Bachchan expressing his happiness in being honoured stated, "I am indebted to my fans and I have no words to express my gratitude to International Film Festival of India (IFFI) for honouring me and having a retrospective of my films."

Javadekar said that single window system being introduced by the government will attract more international filmmakers to shoot their films in India. "India has lots of scenic and beautiful shooting sites for national and international films but shooting at these locations requires around 15-20 permissions. Government is now preparing for single window arrangement which will take care of all the permissions and it will benefit places like Goa, Leh-Ladakh and Andaman & Nicobar," he said.

Javadekar also dwelt upon the need to make special arrangement to ensure that the sightless persons can enjoy the film. For example they can listen to dialogues but do not understand the scenes since they cannot see. If the narration of scenes is provided it will go a long way. This would hardly cost Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.1/2 lakh per film. I have urged film makers to consider this suggestion, he added.



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan giving 'Icon Of Golden Jubilee Award' to Rajinikanth, while Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar and Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant look on.

"Films, IT and music are India's soft power and we have to take it forward. "Every film and character leaves a long lasting imprint on our mind and it has the power to change our thoughts and mood" Javadekar said and added that the audience for Indian films is growing by leaps and bounds and people across the world really like to watch Indian movies even in China.

On the occasion, Ms. Isabelle Anne Madeleine Huppert, one of French cinema's defining faces, was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The festival opened with the Italian film 'Despite the Fog' directed by Goran Paskaljevic. The cast and crew of the film also participated in the inaugural function.

India has partnered with Russia, which is "Country of Focus" for the festival. As such eight movies from Russia will be screened in this festival. On the occasion Maria Lemesheva, Head of Russian delegation, said that special concession and facilities will be offered to Indian film makers if they prefer to shoot their films in Russia. The Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said that the IFFI package this year is an interesting mix of leisure and entertainment. "IFFI bridges the gap between India and international film industry and provides the opportunity to explore the cinema," he said. "We should not forget the objectives of cinema as the mirror of our time and the reflection of our society," he added.

The Secretary Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Amit Khare mentioned the noteworthy

highlights of this year's festival and noted the tremendous change in the last 50 editions from a participation of 23 countries in 1952, to 76 countries this year.

Lights and luminaries of film industry such as world known Cinematographer and Chairman of IFFI International Jury John Bailey; Indian film maker, and Chairman of Indian jury Priyadarshan and other jury members of Indian and International jury graced the opening ceremony. A host of celebrities sashayed the red carpet, adding to the pomp and gaiety of the function.

As the festival glitters in its golden glory, former Goa Chief Minister late Manohar Parikkar, the man who made IFFI synonymous with Goa, was given a befitting tribute at the opening ceremony by screening a short film depicting his contribution to IFFI. Legends of Indian film industry Ramesh Sippy, N. Chandra and P.C. Sreeram were honoured at the inaugural ceremony. Javadekar released the commemorative postage stamp of 50th IFFI at the function.

The inaugural ceremony of the festival also saw various senior official dignitaries such as Union Minister for AYUSH Shripad Naik, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Babul Supriyo, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Shri Amit Khare, Prasar Bharati Chairman A. Suryaprakash, Central Board of Film Certification Chairman Prasoon Joshi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information &

Broadcasting, Atul Kumar Tiwari, Festival Director Chaitanya Prasad, and Vice Chairman Entertainment Society of Goa. Subhash Phal Desai.

In the festival which will be on till 28 November, over 200 films from 76 countries will be shown. They include the films in 26 Indian languages, 26 feature films, 15 non feature films and 12 films who came completed 50 years. Around 7000 delegates are participating in the golden edition of IFFI. Various categories include Oscar retrospectives, documentaries, short films, World Panorama, Golden jubilee retrospectives and restored Indian classics.

The films from North East India include the Assamese films- "Aparopa", Directed by B N Saikia, "Dr Bezbaruah", directed by Brajen Barua, "Bobubritta", Directed by Upal Dutta, "In the Land of Poison Women", (Assamese/Pangchenpa), Directed by Manju Borah, "Lewduh" (Khasi/Garo), Directed by Pradip Kurban and "Ama Khando", Directed by Dr Dhonep Tsering (from Tibet).

The inaugural ceremony also witnessed some enthralling audio visual performances which kept the audience spellbound through the evening. Noted music singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan and his band won the hearts with a spectacular performance that put the cine lovers and spectators in a frenzy. When rhymes and rhythms from different parts of India juxtaposed with the beats of international sounds, it was a treat for the audience.

\*\*\* Raju Vernekar is a Media Professional base in Mumbai. He had served as Chief Reporter at Free Press Journal (1996 - 2015). His Activities includes writing for different news papers, script writing/ production for TV channels, Films Division. Writing poems in Marathi, Hindi, English, Guiding mass media students and helping people to solve their problems.

## 44 years old patient of Sikkim given a new lease of life at Fortis Gurugram through special artificial lung support ECMO

By a Correspondent  
Siliguri, Nov. 22

Doctors at Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI), Gurugram successfully treated a 44-year-old patient Mr. Rajesh Lepcha of Sikkim whose oxygen level was dangerously low even on maximum ventilatory support due to severe pneumonia and ARDS. The patient was airlifted from Siliguri to FMRI and was put on Venous Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) to support his lungs. The patient underwent successful ECMO treatment performed by Dr. Sandeep Dewan, Director & Head, Critical Care Medicine & ECMO, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram and his team.

ECMO is known as it is a treatment which is given to patients with severe lung failure and heart failure when these patients cannot be managed on conventional

treatments like ventilator. ECMO is a machine which acts like artificial lung and heart when both the organs are so much damaged that they cannot support the human body.

Speaking about the case Dr. Sandeep Dewan, Director & Head, Critical Care Medicine & ECMO, FMRI said, "The patient came to us in a critical state wherein patient's lung was extremely damaged due to severe viral pneumonia and ARDS. His oxygen levels were dangerously low even on maximum ventilatory support. The case was challenging as it involved airlifting the patient on high levels of life support system by FMRI's critical care team. On arrival, the patient was placed on Venous-ECMO to support his lungs. Patient was in a critical condition and was kept in ICU for 7-10 days"

"The most common patients which are helped and treated by ECMO

are swine flu (H1N1) patients, trauma patients, patients of heart attack or heart ailments and patients with drug overdose. Mobile ECMO is a modality where ECMO is started on a patient which is in a remote area as the patient is too sick to be transported to an ECMO Center without the machine. In mobile ECMO, a 5-member team goes from FMRI to the remote ICU & puts the patient on ECMO there.

The patient is then transferred by road/air ambulance to ECMO center. The timing of ECMO is most important, sooner the patient is put on ECMO as per the requirement, the better is the survival rate." Mr. Rajesh Lepcha said, "I have been a chain smoker for over 20-25 years and used to have difficulty in breathing on and off over the years. This problem became severe when I was diagnosed with pneumonia and ARDS. I was admitted at the local hospital in Sikkim for 4 days, however I was shifted to Siliguri as

my health kept deteriorating. My family was scared as my lungs were severely affected and showed no sign of improvement. They decided to put me on ECMO as the only way for me to get healthy. As ECMO is not available here, I was airlifted to Gurugram. I am glad my family took that decision and I am now healthy. I have resumed my work and am fit like before."

Dr. Ritu Garg, Zonal Director, Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI) said, "Our endeavor is always to provide best in class clinical care and 100% chance of recovery to every single patient. Our clinicians and support staff work diligently to deliver global clinical protocols and leverage cutting edge technology for best possible results. Raising awareness about early consideration for ECMO therapy is very important so that timely intervention and proper treatment can be ensured."