

Editorial

Monday, November 25, 2019

Confusing stand; confusing act

People were confused about the news report "COCOMI withdraws boycott called on Sangai Festival" which was reported in Sunday edition of this news paper. Being an evening newspaper and being published at 4 pm everyday – the report stands true as per a resolution taken during hours long meeting of the COCOMI leadership. However, after the resolution adopted during the meeting, has been leaked out through social media, keyboard warriors started criticizing the decisions putting a brake in making an official announcement. Imphal Times reporter waited till date line of this newspaper and sought information on whether we could publish the leaked report which clearly mentioned about the lifting of the boycott called on Sangai Festival. No response has been received till the dateline of this newspaper. Having left with no means Imphal Times after confirming the authenticity of the resolution copy leaked through Social media from reliable source publish the news story about the lifting of the ban.

Meanwhile, even after invited for a press meet, the COCOMI represented could not make any announcement till late hour yesterday. Some of the reporters even have to come back as they have been kept waited for hours. No announcement regarding their stand on whether the resolution copy leaked through media is true or not and there was no vivid announcement on whether the copy of the resolution could be treated as the stand of the COCOMI. It is natural that a resolution of a responsible organization and that too a joint platform of civil society organizations like COCOMI, is assumed as the decision of the organization. After all everybody knows that it was signed by the convener of the COCOMI Karam Sunil. If the leaked resolution was just a draft resolution that has been waiting for a consensus opinion, the representatives of the COCOMI should have no fear in announcing so to the people of the state with courage.

It is only today before leaving for New Delhi that media incharge of COCOMI, Convener Sunil Karam and Co-Convener Khuraijam Athouba clarify that they have no change to their decision for boycott of the Sangai Festival at Imphal Airport. What creates confusion is that the COCOMI leaders said that they will announce the decision regarding COCOMI's stand on whether to continue or relax the boycott.

Meanwhile, interesting development notice is that even the AMIK in their whatsapp group has stated that the orchestra group and singers can perform during Sangai Festival. But ban on Protest Singer Jayenta popularly known as TAPTA is still not yet lifted. What an irony?

News from Myanmar

Myanmar military seizes large amount of arms, ammunition in fight with insurgents



Source Xinhua Yangon, Nov. 24

Myanmar's armed forces have seized a large amount of arms and ammunition in Namsang township, northern Shan state, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services said on Sunday. The seizure was made during an encounter between a military column and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) near Hamein village on Friday. As the TNLA withdrew after a

brief fight, the military column conducted a detailed search and clearance in the area later on the day and found the large amount of arms and ammunition stored in three locations.

The weapons confiscated include portable air defense system, hand grenades, TNLA uniforms, assault rifles, machine guns, mortar rounds and propellants, and explosives.

TNLA is a non-signatory to the government's Nationwide Ceasefire Accord (NCA).

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, Thounaojam Meena Devi of Singamei Mayeng Leikai, Imphal West Manipur do hereby declare that I and renounced, relinquished and abandon the use of my old name Thounaojam Amina Devi as I have assumed my new name Thounaojam Meena Devi.

Sd/-
Thounaojam Meena Devi
Singamei Mayeng Leikai,
P.O & P.S Singamei
District -Imphal West, Manipur

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Maharashtra political impasse: SC to give ruling on floor test on Tuesday

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 25

The Supreme Court (SC) today refused to give immediate relief to the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine in its plea against the Maharashtra Governor's decision to swear in Devendra Fadnis as chief minister in a midnight coup, engineered by the BJP with the support of Ajit Pawar (NCP) on Saturday and reserved its order till 10.30 AM on Tuesday.

The petitioners had urged the court that the BJP be asked to prove its majority on the floor of the state legislative assembly immediately or else the combine be allowed to prove its majority. A bench comprising Justices N.V.Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjay Khanna which reserved its order is likely to pass an order on holding of a floor test, on Tuesday.

The petitioners had also submitted the affidavits of 154 MLAs (56 from Sena, 48 from NCP, 44 from Congress, Other independent totalling 154) to the court. However the bench refused

to take on record the affidavits saying that the scope of the petition cannot be expanded.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta raised preliminary objections to judicial review of the Governor's decision. He clarified that he was appearing for the Secretary of the Governor since the Governor could not be a party in person. He said that the letter by Ajit Pawar to the Governor dated November 22 contained signatures of 54 MLAs and no other party till date had gone to the Governor saying it could form the government.

Senior Congress leader and advocate Kapil Sibal appearing on behalf of the Shiv Sena asked "What was the haste in revoking the President's Rule at 5 in the morning, appoint a CM at 8 in the morning?" He said that "Floor test should happen within 24 hours. Protem Speaker should be the most senior member of the House. Open ballot, division of the House and video-recording of the proceedings are what we are asking for," he told the court. Senior counsel

Mukul Rohatgi appearing for Devendra Fadnis, opposed the floor test by a Protem speaker and maintained that his client wants floor test only by a full time speaker in terms of the business of the House. He resisted any order of floor test on Tuesday.

Senior Congress leaders Randeep Surjewala and Prithviraj Chavan, briefing the media at the Supreme Court lawns said that "Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP believe this is a murder of democracy in Maharashtra. We demanded floor test to prove that the majority rests with our alliance. However the court heard all arguments and reserved the order. We are confident that in Maharashtra, floor test will give the BJP a befitting reply." Congress leader Mukul Wasnik said that the Constitution of India, which made India a sovereign, democratic republic, was adopted on November 26, 1949. Tuesday being the 70th anniversary of that adoption day, proper justice was expected from the court. In another development NCP group

leader Jayant Patil, Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde, Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan and other legislators submitted, a letter to the Governor's office showing the strength of 162 MLAs. They submitted the letter to Guv's office since the Governor was not in Mumbai.

In yet another surprising move, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar (who had rebelled and joined BJP and was sworn in along with Fadnis) held a meeting with NCP MLAs, at Vidhan Bhavan in South Mumbai. Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal and others were present. The meeting was on at the time of going to press. Pawar also held a meeting with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis late Sunday night.

In the meanwhile Chief Minister Fadnis who already took over reins of the state, signed a first cheque of Rs 1.20 lakh to give medical assistance from CM's fund to a woman Kusum Vengurkar residing at Dadar in Central Mumbai on Monday.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism exhibits its tourism products to explore potential with Manipur at the "INTERNATIONAL TOURISM MART 2019" held at Imphal

IT News
Imphal, Nov 25

Madhya Pradesh Tourism as the partner State of Manipur & Nagaland under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' participated in the "8th International Tourism Mart 2019" (North-East) organised by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India in association with the hosting State Governments of the region at City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur from 23rd to 25th Nov 2019. The event was inaugurated on 23rd November 2019 by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture & Tourism, Govt of India and Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh. The objective to participate in this Tourism Mart was to highlight the tourism products and potential of Madhya Pradesh in the domestic and International markets and to provide knowledge to the National & International buyers and operators on the latest offerings along with increasing awareness about the vast travel opportunities available in Madhya Pradesh. Also, to showcase the diversity of tourism destinations Madhya Pradesh offers. On this occasion, senior officials of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, said, "This International

Tourism Mart has been planned and scheduled to facilitate interaction between buyers, sellers, media, Government agencies and other stakeholders. Hence there are important opportunities for B2B meetings and creating a great network among the buyers and sellers in the tourism industry. The ITM, Imphal was a great opportunity to present state's wildlife, heritage, handicrafts, pilgrimage, adventure and various hidden treasures.

The exhibition enables us to promote our tourism products to Domestic and International buyers as it saw top-notch, industry influencers, travel enthusiasts, corporate, business heads, travel operators and media professionals from National and International Destinations. ITM offers unlimited opportunities for everyone to explore the market and publicize their destination/product/organization at one place.

Madhya Pradesh offers an assortment of attractions to everyone who loves to travel and emerging as a destination for all seasons. It is the state with the forest area cover of 77,700 sq.kms filled with Sal Trees & Bamboos. It has numerous wildlife hotspots with 11 National parks & 24 Wildlife sanctuaries such as Satpura

National Park, Chambal Ghadiyal Sanctuary & has re-gained the tag of being "Tiger State of the Country" by having maximum tiger count (526) in the state. The roar of Tigers has increased in the dense and beautiful forests of Madhya Pradesh. The UNESCO world heritage sites of Khajuraho, Bhimbetka & Sanchi are the iconic sites in Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh is not only home to two Jyotirlingas, Omkareshwar and Mahakaleshwar, Burhanpur and Bhopal exhibit the Mughal Architecture. Gwalior and Mandu are the some of the beautiful architectural sites, whereas Indrasagar, Gandhi sagar, Tawa and Bargi are the spellbinding water bodies. Cultural events like Khajuraho Dance festival, Tansen Festival etc. Madhya Pradesh spares no effort to leave one in awe of culture and heritage. This only goes to prove that MP is most definitely the melting pot of various faiths, ethnicities as well as cultures.

Madhya Pradesh is round the year visit destination for each and every tourist. The Government is developing circuits like Wildlife circuits, Heritage Circuits, Buddhist Circuit. Madhya Pradesh Tourism recently exhibited in the India International Travel Exhibition-

Mangalore, and will be exhibiting in India International Travel Mart-Pune and many others. There is an exciting event calendar for visitors to Madhya Pradesh. Adventure is being aggressively promoted in Madhya Pradesh. Over 30 campsites are being developed. Nature Trekking, Cycling and other soft Adventure activities are very popular among the youth. MP Tourism hosted "Pachmarhi Monsoon Marathon", "Go Heritage Run", "Satpura Cycle Safari" and will be organizing "Jal Mahotsav", "Mandu Festival", "Orchha Festival" and many more in the months to come.

About Madhya Pradesh Tourism: Since more than four decades Madhya Pradesh Tourism is facilitating high standard travel services for travelers visiting Central India. Madhya Pradesh is an important state of Central India with an enormous scope for tourism covering heritage, wildlife, cultural, pilgrimage, tribal, rural tourism etc. The sincere efforts of Madhya Pradesh Tourism to manifest such aspect of tourism to the rest of the world so that tourists can come and explore destinations, trace the history, enjoy the holidays and return with beautiful memories is the USP of the state.

Development of Ethnic Park In Keibul Lamjao will help in celebrating Manipur Sangai Festival in a grand way: Minister Shyamkumar

Rs 38 crore sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan scheme for development of ethnic park in Keibul

IT News
Bishnupur, Nov 24

Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar today said that from next year the Sangai Festival can be celebrated in a grand way in Keibul Lamjao as the Centre has approved Rs 38 crore for the development of ethnic park in the area. It may be mentioned that the amount is sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan scheme under the Ministry of Tourism.

Minister Shyamkumar was speaking as the chief guest of the inaugural function of the Manipur Sangai Festival 2019 at the Keibul

Lamjao organised by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Forest Department. He further said the development of ethnic park at Keibul Lamjao will help in organizing the festival without disturbing the environment of the area. He opined that it will give a proper venue for celebrating the festival without disturbing the daily life of the local residents. Lauding the locals of the area, Forest Minister said the conservation of Sangai along with the support of the local residents of Keibul Lamjao and department officials shows that the people are very serious regarding the

conservation of wildlife. He said the conservation of Sangai has set an example to the world that stakeholders can come forward for the wildlife conservation successfully.

He said that Manipur is proud that the Sangai has put the State and Keibul Lamjao in the tourists map with the historical significance of the place. The wildlife conservation efforts in Keibul Lamjao and other areas including the Amur Falcons in Tamenglong have given a message that the human beings can not live without the wildlife. Concluding his speech, Minister Shyamkumar appealed to the people living near the Keibul Lamjao to

continue their support in the wildlife conservation.

The function was also attended by P. Saratchandra Singh, Govt. Chief Whip and MLA Moirang Assembly Constituency (A/C); K. Robindro Singh, Deputy Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly and MLA Mayang Imphal A/C; H. Dingo Singh, Chairman MBCWC and MLA Sekmai A/C; S. Bira Singh, MLA Kumbi A/C; T. Robindro Singh, Chairman (PDA) and MLA Thanga A/C; K. Angami, PCCF and HoFF; DIN Anand, PCCF (Wildlife); officers and staff of Forest Department, officials of Tourism Department, local residents among others.