

Editorial

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

What if the much-awaited turns out to be Samuel Beckett's 'Godot'

Stakeholders in all neighbouring states of Nagaland, particularly the government of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, will be consulted before settling the issue of the NSCN-IM and other Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). This was what the union home ministry had clarified amidst rumours about signing the final agreement between them on October 31. Indeed, we the people of this democratic country need to appreciate the Union Home Ministry for the timely clarification when people across the state of Manipur were on alert to uproar a 2001 June Uprising-like situation after various news were being carried out based on speculations and sources by media houses. But the assurance for invitation or consultation of Government of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh reminds of Samuel Beckett's classic play 'Waiting for Godot'. The air that is blowing in Nagaland state is of joy and celebration with the assurance from the government of India to end the 6-decade long Naga issues, and people in the state are waiting for December 1 as they have been told that the day will be another historic moment as the Prime Minister will announce officially that has been agreed on October 31.

What is that agreement that the Prime Minister is going to announce? Is it going to be the acceptance of all the demands that have been made by NSCN-IM? If so, then what will be the air that will blow in the state of Manipur?

On the other hand, similar to the way that Vladimir (Didi) and Estragon (Gogo) waited for a person named Godot who never arrived in Samuel Beckett's play, government of Manipur is waiting for an invitation from the Union Government to have a consultation on the issues before any settlement has been brought. October 31, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh himself stated that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told him that no settlement will be signed or had been signed and such a settlement will be brought only after consultation with the government of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Today is November 5, and as per news report, it is only 25 days left for the historic announcement to be made by the Prime Minister on the inaugural day of HornBill festival, which coincidentally is also a day that Nagaland became a state of India in 1963.

The government of Manipur says that they have no knowledge of the content of the agreement, but are waiting for the invitation from the center for the consultation, more like waiting for Godot by Vladimir (Didi) and Estragon (Gogo).

India government is not run by idiots – even though many elected legislatures or parliamentarians have sometimes showed their stupidity, the country is run by highly educated bureaucrats and the Prime Minister of India is utilising and noticing every time in consultation with intelligentsia group before acting or deciding on anything. And the government of India under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will never act anything that will put on fire the gateway to the South East Asia (Manipur) and, at the same time, he will never hurt the sentiment of the people of Nagaland.

The moods of the people here in Manipur are restless waiting for what will happen if any agreement signed or accepted by the union government against the wishes of the people is announced. So, the government of Manipur, civil society organisations as well as the people of Nagaland are anxiously waiting for something that they don't actually know.

In short, what if the much-awaited turns out to be a Godot of Samuel Beckett.

Training Program for Police Officials on Prevention and Investigation of Cases of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 5

India Suraksha in collaboration with Manipur Police and Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights is organizing a two day State Level Training Program for Police Officials on Prevention and Investigation of cases of Human Trafficking at 1 MR, Banquet Hall, Imphal on 4th-5th November, 2019.

The main objective of the programme is to train the police officials on various prevention and investigation mechanisms to be followed by police in handling cases of human trafficking and child victims. A total of Police Officers from different districts of Manipur participated during the first day of the training programme.

The programme is conducted as part of project Mukti-An Anti Trafficking initiative to combat human trafficking and child sexual abuse in Manipur implemented with the support of ECPAT Luxembourg since 2015 in Imphal and Ukhrul. Shri T Guite, IPS, Addl. Director General of Police (Modernization) graced as the Guest of Honour during the inaugural session of the two-day training programme.

Apart from him Mr. Kojiam Radhashyam Singh, IGP, Int/NAB, Mr. H.T Gangte, Director General of Police, Crime Branch, Ms. Joyce Lalremmaw, SP, CID-CB, were also present as chief guests during the inaugural session.

Welcoming the participants and thanking the department FXB India Suraksha for organizing the two day training programme, Shri T Guite, IPS, Addl. Director General of Police (Modernization) said that the subject which is of utmost importance for the present time, during his inaugural speech.

He shared that definitions and protocols are present in the legislations and therefore it is the duty of the officials to follow the same and strengthen its mechanisms in preventing and combating the heinous crimes like trafficking and crime against children and women. Kojiam Radhashyam Singh, IGP, Int/NAB stressing upon prevention



said, "More than investigation prevention is very much important. One who becomes a victim of trafficking has to undergo various forms of trauma and stigma. Counseling is therefore very much important. We as police officials have to understand and be sensitive towards such cases and work towards reducing such instances." The day long training programme started with a welcome note by Satya Prakash, Program Manager, FXB India Suraksha introducing the purpose and objective of the training programme. He stressed upon the fact that Manipur due to its geo-political location and sharing border with Myanmar in itself stands vulnerable in terms of trafficking of persons and smuggling of persons.

He thanked the Hon'ble Director General of Police and the Manipur Police department for collaborating and supporting in organizing the program. He also informed about the drafting of the Standard Operating Procedures in addressing and handling cases of human trafficking.

Differentiating between Want, Need and Right, Mr. Satya Prakash initiated his training sessions saying that Rights are non-negotiable and has legal connotation and goes beyond any age, gender, caste, race, religion or region. Starting on the definition of a child he said, "Although different laws have defined a child differently, the only definition considered supremely as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act 2015 which says that any person below the age of 18 years should be treated as a child." He also discussed various

provisions laid out under the law especially the procedures to be followed by children while handling children in need of care and protection and child in conflict with law.

The day long training concluded with the sessions on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and the role of Police laid out under the law. The session also included the comparison between POCSO and JJ Act which focused on how children who are victims of sexual offences should be treated as a child in need of care and protection and undergo the procedures as per the JJ Act.

Apart from that the daylong training focused on the definition of trafficking as laid out in Section 370 of the India Penal Code, reason of vulnerability, modus operandi in terms of source, transit and

destination, trends and forms of trafficking. The day long programme ended with movie screening for context setting, queries, suggestions and recommendations from the participants.

Till date FXB India Suraksha through project Mukti has been able to reach out to around 10,000 students and 15000 community people, religious leaders, community members through its various awareness generation programmes, trained around 400 law enforcement agencies including paramilitary forces, 300 Government officials, 200 journalists in Imphal, Ukhrul and Tenuonou districts of Manipur. Moreover, 4000 adolescents and teachers have been trained through adolescent clubs and 18 Vigilance Committees has been formed and migration registers being introduced in Ukhrul district.

Assam Rifles seizes contraband drugs worth Rs 92 Lakhs

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5

Troops of Assam Rifles under HQ IGAR (South) recovered Contraband Drugs worth Rs 92 lakhs from Khudengthabi Check Post in Tenuonou district.

On 3rd November 2019, during search at a vehicle check post, troops of Assam Rifles intercepted a suspicious Silver Colour Van driven by Mr. Md Rafik Khan of Thoubal District. After a thorough check of vehicle, the team recovered 19 packets of Heroin weighing 230 gms worth approximately Rs 92 lakhs.

The detained individual and the



recovered items have been handed over to Moreh Police Station for further investigation

More news

Education Dept. to provide Helicopter ride to Students

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5

With funding from Samagra Shiksha State Implementing Society, state education society is going to provide an opportunity for a "Helicopter Ride" to the students studying in Classes IV – VIII of Government Schools.

For the students to be able to enjoy the "Helicopter Ride" they have to participate in a Zone-wise competition to be organized by the concerned the Zonal Education Officers (ZEO) in their respective Districts or Zones during the month of November.

The competition will be carried out in two categories from Classes IV-V and from Classes VI-VIII. The winners of these competition will be given "Helicopter Ride" to the From the category of Classes IV-V three best students and from category of Classes VI-VIII five

students will be selected as winner. For each Zone only ten representatives inclusive of eight students, one teacher or guide and one representative of ZEO can be recommended.

The Zone-wise competitions under the broad theme 'Know Your State' in different literary activities of extempore speech, quiz or story telling of other communities or in any other way to help the children explore and understand the State better. Topics of the competition will be based on information and matters related to the State.

The Helicopter Ride will be conducted on November, 2019 on Children's Day. The opportunity is being provided to the children to explore and understand the beautiful landscape and landmarks of the State in a unique way. Each Helicopter Ride will be of 20 minute duration.

Depleting Air quality needs to be tackled urgently to prevent health ailments

Poor AQI leading to rise in respiratory ailments

By a Correspondent
New Delhi Nov 5

Air pollution continues to be a significant concern to public health and a tough problem confronted by our society. Recently Air Quality Index (AQI) has crossed the 400 mark, which is well above dangerous levels than the accepted norms. Particulate suspended matter (PM<10), ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitric dioxides, carbon mono and dioxides all lead to airway inflammation, increased allergies and lung damage. Poor air quality is responsible for 3 million premature deaths worldwide per year.

"The effect that air pollution has on your lungs depends on the type and mix of pollutants in the air, the concentration of pollutants and how much of the pollutant gets down into your lungs. Especially, in present time due to extreme smog and pollution even non-smokers are at high risk of developing COPD and other life-threatening lung diseases." Said Dr Rakesh Chawla, Senior Consultant, Respiratory

Medicine, Saroj Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi.

Air pollution has impact on most of the organs and systems of human body and is the major cause & aggravating factor for many respiratory diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, chronic bronchitis and even lung cancer. Apart from affecting the lungs, pollution has its ill effects on the brain, nervous system, digestive system, kidney and urinary system and on the heart.

"One can identify that the air quality is not safe through certain symptoms like burning of eyes, watering and redness of eyes, nasal congestion, running nose, frequent sneezing, headache, breathlessness, cough, chest heaviness, in order to avoid being exposed to it. Severity of symptoms depends upon level of pollution, exposure, and personal health status. Higher the concentrations of ambient pollutants higher are the risk of heart-attack, stroke and COPD."

The best solution to manage the health effects is to avoid exposure, preserve the environment by planting more trees, which are natural air purifiers and avoid combustion, (stubble burning and vehicular pollution). Healthy habits like regular exercise, breathing exercises, healthy diet are general measures. Fresh fruits and vegetables provide anti-oxidants which protect lungs and other body organs from air pollutants. Plenty of water and juices help body to get rid of these toxins. Washing eyes and face, covering nose and mouth with mask reduces ill-effects.

Preserving the environment by adopting non-conventional energy sources like solar energy /wind energy/hydro-power in place of fossil fuel, coal, gasoline wood. Transforming to electric vehicles and phasing out diesel/ petrol vehicles and providing better public transport to reduce private vehicles are few steps that can help in curbing down the deteriorating air quality.

Measures to stop waste burning,

better crop-waste-management as crop burning has led to haze and smog surge in NCR during this season every year. Town planning for better urbanization and preventing deforestation, as trees are the natural filters for air. Indoor plants also improve in-door pollution.

Children, the elderly, and people with underlying chronic disease, especially of the heart and lungs, are particularly at risk for respiratory problems. Healthy people who work or exercise outdoors also experience symptoms.

"On high pollution days, the best thing you can do to reduce your exposure to air pollution is to avoid main roads and busy streets when possible. Wearing face-mask (N95 mask or equivalent) might be a useful. Using faced mask, dusting out-door activity is personal protection for individuals from pollution. There are varieties of masks available like N-95, Cambridge mask, Vog-mask, Respro-mask and many; these have different filters and duration of protection." He Added.

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