

Editorial

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Judicious journalism is a tool for good governance

A journalist must seek the truth from facts, from the facts the truth is revealed. The truth sought would be then spoken to power. The fact now is the government is not allowing any democratic voice against its policies, at the same time claiming that peaceful protest is acceptable. The views from all sides must be heard, the principle of democracy is being violated. The facts are peaceful protesters are stopped from protesting. These facts reveal the truth that there is a severe gag on democratic voices. With a severe gag on democratic utterances from the public, it would be a myth that we are ruled by unbiased people. When it comes to unbiased reporting, it is only possible when the rulers are unbiased, in a world where democracy is. Ours, as of now, is not the case. Many unseen crimes committed by bureaucrats and politicians are open secret. What matters here for us is the facts and the facts matter because they reveal the truth. The truth is what has been said above.

Where do journalism end and activism begins? This question does not have a clear answer. The divide does not have a clear line. Many debates have happened amongst those who study journalism, as a profession. When we see objectively in the world of journalism, we find that it is also a world of political beings. We need to understand this crisscrossing of journalism and activism. We must remember the great political and social movements and the journalists who were involved in it. How can we forget the young Marx who was a journalist? We should remember John Reed, the American journalist whose body is now buried in Kremlin as a respect to his service in the great Russian revolution. On the one hand, we have a journalist who laid the foundation of the American invasion of Iraq by reporting wrongly that there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. On the other hand, we have journalists with strong political views against exploitation and oppression such as Amy Goodman persecuted by the American government. When we look into India's fight against British Colonialism, we see Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak becoming journalists. We should also remember our purari.

Lamyamba Irabot is the father of journalism in Manipur. These instances make us think about the crisscrossing that journalism and activism have and the blurring of boundaries between the two. Lamyamba Irabot was a journalist because Manipur at that time needed journalism and he saw it. Followed to Lamyamba Irabot was NK Sanaoiaoba who began writings the wrong through investigative journalism.

Journalism today is a tool of the people to seek the truth from the things that they see happening. Further, the profession though is the most important it should not take away our humanity.

Maharashtra CM calls on PM, indirectly supports CAA

By Raju Vernekar

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and after the meeting said that the Prime Minister has promised to extend every co-operation to the Maharashtra Government.

This was Uddhav Thackeray's second meeting with PM Modi after assuming charge as chief minister, their first in a formal setting. The Shiv Sena led government is set to complete three months soon.

Thackeray, discussed the issues including financial assistance, farmers' distress, industries and refinery projects, crop insurance to farmers, delay in GST refund and other issues with the Prime Minister. The chief minister's son Aditya Thackeray, who is a minister in his cabinet, also accompanied him.

In a tweet shortly after their meeting, PM Modi's office and Uddhav Thackeray tweeted photographs. "CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray had a courtesy meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri @narendramodi ji in Delhi today," the chief minister's official handle tweeted.



Later at a press briefing, Thackeray who was joined by Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and son Aditya briefed the media and spoke about the range of discussions he had with the prime minister. "We discussed on Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens and National Population Register. I have already cleared my stance on these issues. No one should be scared of CAA, he said. Defending Centre's decision to implement the Amended Citizenship Act, Thackeray said, "This law

(CAA) is not to take away citizenship from anyone. However, this law is about giving citizenship to the minorities of the neighbouring countries. Besides NRC is only for Assam". Thackeray has already announced that his government will begin implementing NPR from first May this year, since NPR is nothing but a census, which in any case slated to be held in the state within next few months.

In two other separate tweets, Thackeray's office stated : "The

NPR is proposed along with the census. It happened in 2010 too. Census happens every 10 years in our country. If there are new columns proposed in the NPR, they will be scrutinised by our government & if it seems problematic we won't take it ahead. (3/4)". "NRC is problematic to every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed, religion any which way, and won't let it come to Maharashtra. (4/4)". Thackeray is also to call on Congress president Sonia Gandhi, veteran BJP leader L K Advani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to the national capital.

The Shiv Sena and PM Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party had been allies for decades but split up after last year's Maharashtra assembly elections, over the chief minister's post. The Shiv Sena later aligned with arch-rivals Congress and the NCP to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. Thackeray had taken offence to the BJP leadership's assertion that the two allies never agreed to sharing the chief minister's chair, a denial that Thackeray said, implied that he was lying.

Northeast India Music Conference at Guwahati to witness participation of top stakeholders of music industry

From a Correspondent
Guwahati, Feb. 22

Eastern Beats Music Society, a prominent socio-cultural organization working for promotion of Northeast culture and establishment of new vistas with other countries – especially Asia, is organizing a first-of-its kind "Northeast India Music Conference" on February 28-29 as part of the 4th Guwahati International Music Festival. The Northeast India Music Conference will witness participation of some of the biggest stakeholders of the global music industry who will provide mentorship to the musicians from the region who were selected through auditions at Dimapur, Shillong, Ukhrul and Aizawl in the last two months. State-level music auditions were held across the Northeast in a unique Pan-Asia music project, Rhythms and Aromas of Northeast India, which was held in collaboration with North Eastern Council, Government of India.

The Northeast India Music Conference, which is open for all musicians and those interested in understanding the music business, is expected to be a catalyst in developing the music ecosystem of the region. It is also expected to help musicians of the region understand the business part of

music and the latest developments in the fields associated with the same.

Boasting of an impressive line-up, the speakers for the music conference include

Taransam Mittal (Artist & talent management expert), Akshay Kapoor (Artist & Aditya Ghosh from Indian Music Diaries (digital music promotion channels), Anurag Tagar from RollingStone India (Music journalist), Roy Dipankar (Music Programmer and Filmmaker), Ritika Nayan from CD Baby (Music Aggregator), Padmanabhan NS (Head of Artist and Label Marketing at Spotify), Vijay Basur (Founder of OK Listen), Shrikshla Sahai (Music Journalist), Theja Meru (Adviser, Task Force for Music and Arts, Government of

Nagaland), Koushik Datta (Musician and music promoter at Muzikconnect Asia), etc. Eastern Beats Music Society will also be signing a few agreements

with the participating organizations for speedy development of the region's music industry. "We will be signing more than 6 MoUs with global giants of the music industry, like RollingStone India, Spotify, CD Baby, Indian Music Diaries, etc, which will greatly benefits the musicians and stakeholders of the music industry of Assam and Northeast India," said Eastern Beats Music Society Founder Secretary Aiyushman Dutta.

The unique music conference will be a prelude to the 4th Guwahati International Music Festival which will be held at Silgram in Guwahati

on February 29 and March 1.

The musicians taking part in the music conference were selected through auditions held across the 8 northeast states. Bands from Nagaland and Assam took part at the auditions in Dimapur in the end of December, 2019 as part of the Pan-Asian music project 'Rhythms and Aromas of Northeast India', which was supported by the North Eastern Council, Shillong. Likewise, the bands from Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura took part in the Shillong auditions. Later, auditions were also held at Ukhrul – for Manipur and Sikkim and at Aizawl for Mizoram.

ABOUT EASTERN BEATS MUSIC SOCIETY: Eastern Beats Music Society is a non-profit organization formed in 2009 to harness the healing power of music, sports and the arts. The Society is registered with Registrar of Societies, Assam and NitiAyog, Planning Commission, Government of India. Over the past decade, it has partnered with numerous agencies of the Government of India – NEZCC (Ministry of Culture), ICCR (Ministry of External Affairs), Government of Assam, Government of Goa, PSU's like NTPC, NHPC, NEEPCO, NRL and musical giants like Musicians Institute (USA), Suzuki Music International (Japan), Thompson Music (USA), besides others.

45 Days Training Programme

45 days Training Programme Organized by Oinam Women Association Swavalamban Koushal Unnayan under the theme of Cane and Bamboo Craft was held On February 25 to April, 2020 at Bishnupur Dist.Oinam Mamang Leikai Community Hall. Under the Financial Assistant of SIDBI.

Sd/-
President
Oinam Women Assn.

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, **Arambam Tilotama Devi** do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name **Arambam (o) Sana** as I have assumed my new name **Arambam Tilotama Devi**.

Sd/-
Arambam Tilotama Devi
Sangaiprou Mamang Leikai, Imphal

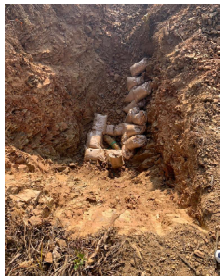
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A R disposes off two world war - II Bombs

IGAR (South)
Imphal Feb 22

Tengnoupal Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) disposes off two World War - II bombs through demolition on yesterday.

Unexploded Artillery shell and Mortar bomb of World War - II origin were recovered during excavation work undertaken for expansion of National Highway - 102 in Tengnoupal Police Station premises on 15th February 2019 and Loisi village on 18th March 2019 respectively. Pursuantly, the police authorities of Tengnoupal Police Station approached Tengnoupal battalion on 17th February 2020 to dispose off the recovered bombs as they were facing difficulties for doing same. As an aid to Civil Administration, Tengnoupal battalion accepted the request and initiated preparation for disposal of bombs.



The preparations for demolition of bombs keeping safety of civilian populace of Tengnoupal and livestock alike as centre of gravity were completed on 20th February 2020. The administrative authorities of Tengnoupal district were apprised of the impending demolition to warn civilians to prevent any untoward incident as a safety measure.

Requisite medical cover was also provided at the demolition site by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Tengnoupal battalion. The demolition was conducted on 21st February 2020 using explosives maintaining safe distance from the habitat. The demolition was undertaken by Bomb Disposal Squad under the supervision Tengnoupal battalion in the presence of police representatives. Post demolition assessment confirmed that the bombs were completely destroyed without causing any damage to property, livestock or any civilians.

The police authorities of Tengnoupal expressed gratitude to Assam Rifles for promptly disposing off bombs as a humanitarian aid and thus rendering significant assistance to Police Authorities. Tengnoupal battalion is resolute to provide assistance to administrative authorities in future also.

A R conducts awareness drive on hiv / aids

IGAR (South)
Imphal Feb 22

Thoubal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a HIV / AIDS awareness drive at Phunderi village in Thoubal District on yesterday.

The awareness drive commenced with an informative lecture on 'HIV / AIDS Causes and Precautions' followed by an interactive session during which various queries of attendees were answered. The locals were educated on origin and various causes of HIV / AIDS. They were also briefed on symptoms and preventive measures of the disease. The event witnessed attendance of over 60 locals of the area. The locals gracefully acknowledged efforts by the Assam Rifles for regularly undertaking such educational drives and contributing towards a healthier society.