

# Editorial

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

## The Free Speech and Expression in a Debacle

People are confused today. Is criticizing a policy program of the government "Antinational"? Does blaming the Prime Minister or Chief Minister of any states – a seditious act? Does performance depicting the dark side of a powerful person running the country a crime?

A news report appeared at this newspaper under the heading "Girl student studying class iv along with her mother and teacher slapped with a sedition charge for projecting Prime Minister in poor light skit presentation" is a serious issue which needs to be pondered by every citizen of the country. There are several cases where citizens are abused by goons, arrested under sedition charges by government machinery for uploading post criticizing individuals or the government functionaries at social networking sites.

Earlier, before the coming of the internet, when newspapers, Television, Theatre, Public Meeting, and Cinemas are medium of commenting to the act of any government machinery or political parties or say to any individual, the first action received was a legal notice under defamation or sedition laws. Those days only a few people can comment on critical ways, and those few people happened to be prominent figures and laws hardly find evidence to prove their criticism as derogatory, seditious or defamatory. Maybe the actors of those days presented their criticism after a thorough knowledge of the law of this land.

Right to freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed to all the citizens of the country under Article 19 (1)(a) on the condition that this freedom of speech and expression shall not affect the operation of any existing law, or prevent the State from making any law or affect interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India as well as the security of the State. The free speech and expression are also limited when it affects friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or concerning contempt of court.

Now after the coming of the internet and invention of social networking software which makes every individual irrespective of their status or educational qualification or ages now get connected. Any idea of any individual is today seen uploaded by almost all people who access the social networking site particularly the 'Facebook'. In the last couple of years, these social networking sites are being used as a tool for political purpose by some highly trained professionals. But there are still many people who care nothing about politics but use to express their idea to the social networking site either in good ways or bad ways.

To control this medium, the government amended the Information Technology Act, 2000 in 2008 and get assent from the President on February 5, 2009. Section of the amended IT act sanctioned authority the government machinery to punish any person who sends, information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or any information which he knows to be false, but to cause annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, emity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device.

This section 66 A of the IT act was however struck down in 2015 by a division bench of Supreme Court relating to restrictions on online speech, as unconstitutional on grounds of violating the freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. The Court further held that the Section was not saved by being a 'reasonable restriction' on the freedom of speech under Article 19(2).

However, a news report appeared in The Hindu newspaper that said that on January 7, 2019, said that the 66A of the IT Act already struck down by the Supreme Court was found to be still in use.

However, in the state of Manipur, those arrested in connection with uploading the post which the government felt it derogatory are charged under the sedition act. Under Section 124A, Sedition

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

The argument that arises here is that any person if acted against the restriction which is punishable can be dealt with under this act. If the act of the person has no impact and if such action fails to disturb the tranquility of the society without giving any hindrance to the law and order condition, can this person be liable to charge under the act, considering that the person is considered abnormal?

Coming back to the news report regarding the arrest of three female including a class IV student in for performing a skit that the government machinery felt it as a humiliation to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a school function at an Urdu primary school in Bidar in Karnataka, it seems that even talents and artistic peaceful performances are going to be put under strict surveillance. Maybe Films that depict the morals of some MLAs or political party leaders may also be banned. Even Singers may also be targeted some days that is presumably not far from today

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Pashel Joysee, do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name Pashel Joysee Ngoru as I have assumed my new name Pashel Joysee.

Sd/-  
Pashel Joysee  
Kurkam Village, Chandel

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## Hydro power projects to come up soon in state: Min Biswajit

IT News  
Imphal, Feb.4

Power Minister Thangam Biswajit Singh chaired a meeting for setting up of hydro power projects in different parts of the State yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Power Shri K Raghunani Singh, MD MSPDCL, Manipur L Priyokumar, MSPCL

MD N Sarat, MANIREDA Director L Manglem, Power Generation Company Ltd. Mumbai MD Sailesh among others.

Observing that locations have already been identified for setting up of 5MW hydro projects in the State, the Minister also stated that preparation of DPR for the projects is under process.

He continued that funding for the project will be 90 percent Centre

share and 10 percent State share. The Minister also expressed that the projects will be taken up at the earliest to improve the State's own power generation. During the meeting, the officials also highlighted that these hydro power projects will be a major boost in revenue generation in the State. It was also observed that these projects could be tourist attractions.

## Govt suspends air travel from China, declares all visas 'invalid'

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 4

The government on Tuesday banned all India-bound airlines from boarding any passengers from China and cancelled all existing Indian visas, in view of the rapid spread of novel coronavirus outbreak which originated in Wuhan.

As of Tuesday, 425 people have died due to the outbreak and more than 20,000 people were tested positive for the virus in China.

Three people who returned to Kerala from China have been diagnosed with the coronavirus pneumonia.

In a letter issued by the Bureau of

Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs, Kolkata, the government said: "All airlines are informed not to take on board any passenger from China, including Chinese or other foreign nationals who may be holding valid (electronic travel authority) ETA/e-visa to board their aircraft for any destination in India."

The implementation of the order "starts with immediate effect and shall remain in force till further notice", the letter said. The notice was signed by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer, Kolkata.

The embassy also announced that "existing visas (both regular and e-visas) are no longer valid" and has

asked applicants in China to apply afresh.

All those who are already in India with regular or e-visa and had travelled from China after January 15, have been asked to contact the hotline number of the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The decision came two days after around 650 Indians who had signed consent forms for evacuation by the government were brought back from China. All of them are undergoing a 14-day quarantine process in Delhi at the moment.

The Indian embassy in Beijing following the evacuation had suspended travel to India on e-visas from China and declared e-visas issued in China, "invalid".

However, the embassy has asked Indian citizens or travellers in China to contact them in Beijing or consulates and Indian visa application centres in Shanghai and Guangzhou in case there is a "compelling reason" to visit India.

## Annual day 2020 organised at Arps, Mantripukhri

IGAR (South)  
Imphal Feb 4

Annual Day with unprecedented funfare was celebrated on yesterday at School premises. Maj Gen and Mrs KP Singh, IGAR (South) were the esteemed Chief Guests of the function, the panel of Dignitaries and other Officers were also graced the occasion.

The Chief Guest was escorted to the venue by school NCC pilots. The day's cultural extravaganza commenced with the auspicious lighting of ceremonial lamp by Mrs Rachana Singh which was followed by release of 10th Edition of School Magazine - the creative dimension of school, "The Enlighteners". The Principal Dr Alka Jain presented the school report accentuating the progress of the school throughout the year. She made the audience aware of the school's achievements in holistic arena. Prizes were distributed to the toppers and other students who brought

laurels to the school in various competition and contests. The talents in academics and co-curricular activities were duly elucidated and recognised on the dais. The cultural programs of the day were an amalgamation of various hues befitting the theme wondrously.

The Chief Guest was visibly impressed by the impeccable performance by the students across different grades. He was all praise for the show, addressing the gathering, he categorically mentioned that today's students should not only be imparted education but also be given great scruples and life skill values so that they can effectively serve their nation. At the end, the Honourable Chief Guest applauded the school for its phenomenal success and wished a better future to ARPS family. Last but not the least Coordinators Assam Rifles Welfare Education Society (ARWES) revered assembly of guests by proposing the vote of thanks.

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Ngoruh Ngamvir Moyon, do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name Ngoruh Ngamvir Moyol as I have assumed my new name Ngoruh Ngamvir Moyon.

Sd/-  
Ngoruh Ngamvir Moyon  
Kurkam Village, Chandel

## NATIONAL HANDLOOM EXPO : 2019-20

Notice

31-01-2020

No. 29/AWAS/H/MELA/2017-18 : Notice is hereby to all the state's primary weavers, co-operative societies, SHGs Handloom entrepreneurs that the Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisan C.S Ltd(AWAS), is organizing 14 days National Handloom Expo: 2019-20 from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 at the Urban Head Nilakuthi, Imphal East under the sponsorship of the office of the Development Commissioner, for Handlooms Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. For participation, filled in prescribed application forms can be submitted to the office of AWAS Paona Bazar, on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 during office hours S (tries) stall are reserved for National Awardees, State and Differently abled person

Sd/-  
Business Manager ,AWAS

## A R Promotes Fit India Movement



IGAR (South)  
Imphal Feb 4

The Joupi Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a Special Sports Competition at Tuivang village in Chandel district administration under Khrenjoy Sub Division in Manipur.

The battalion with an aim to promote "Fit India Movement" organised the sports event. The event was organised to keep the children busy during their vacation. This also helped the battalion to create a positive image of the Security Forces in the area as well as keeping the kids away from ill effects of insurgents.

A total of 110 Children including 52 Girls of Tuivang and Hollenjang villages participated in the drawing competition. Subsequently, other events such as Jalebi Race, Juice Race, Jodi Race and Samosa Race were conducted. Locals in large number witnessed the event and appreciated the commitment of Assam Rifles in promoting co-curricular activities in the region.

## CRPF organises "Sensitisation and awareness programme on Corona virus"



IT News  
Imphal Feb.4

Composite Hospital, Imphal, CRPF under the aegis of IGP Manipur and Nagaland sector has organised a "Sensitisation and awareness programme on Corona virus" yesterday. More than 350 Jawans and childrens from KV School, Langjing attended the above programme.

Suresh Sharma, DIGP M&N Sector graced the occasion as Chief Guest. A brief lecture has been given by Dr. Deepak, CMO (Anesthetist) and power point presentation has been done by Dr. Pranjal, SMO (Surgeon) for prevention of Corona Virus. The program was organized to bring awareness about the Corona Virus among the personnel and school children. Dr. Deepak informed that the virus has shown evidence of human-to-human transmission, with the number of cases quickly climbing into thousands by late January 2020 and several countries across Europe, North America and especially the Asia-Pacific reporting the cases. Its incubation period (time from exposure to onset of symptoms) ranges from 2 to 14 days, but there is evidence that it may be contagious during this

period and possibly also for several days after recovery. Symptoms include fever, coughing and breathing difficulties, and it can be fatal. Anyone who suspects that they are carrying the virus is advised to wear a protective mask and seek medical advice by calling a doctor. At the end Suresh Sharma, DIGP M&N Sector also shared his view on above issue. Suresh Sharma, DIGP M&N Sector in his speech mentioned about the symptoms of corona virus which include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhoea, and may vary from slight to very severe. Cases of severe infection can result in pneumonia, kidney failure, and death. Upper respiratory symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose or sore throat are less frequent. The Ministry of Health has asked that people practice a good standard of hygiene, such as washing hands regularly. Those who are unwell should wear a mask and see a doctor immediately.

He stated that this program has been started with an objective to maintain high level of awareness among the public. The program has been very informative & successful as there has been 45 minutes of questionnaire debate from the children's of KV School, Langjing.