

# Editorial

Thursday, January 9, 2020

## Film Policy- awaiting action

'The Manipur State Cinema Policy, 2019' was approved by the state government in an effort to improve the Manipuri film industry during a cabinet meeting chaired by the Manipur CM in Imphal. The main motive of this meeting was to find out ways of improving the Manipuri film industry, and understandably, the decision has been welcomed by the artistes and others associated with the Manipuri film industry including the Film Forum Manipur (FFM)- Manipur's apex body of filmmakers. With the approval by the state cabinet, the plight of Manipuri film and those associated with film-making were expected to improve considerably.

The role that film plays in projecting an image and presenting the cultures and customs of a place or region is enormous, evident from the plethora of advertisements and publicity stunts employed by agencies to attract the attention and imagination of the public. To this day, films remain the most effective and widespread medium for inspiring the public or spreading awareness, portraying a culture or custom and enticing tourists.

Unfortunately, however, despite the importance and the increasing need for making advancements in film-making, the Policy is yet to be implemented thus rendering it a lame and impotent decision as of now- one among the multitude of such critical decisions which, if implemented in the right spirit, could have made substantial differences in various spheres of public life. The continuing apathy could not be more evident from the fact that the annual budget 2019-20 proposes a total expenditure of Rs 16117 crore from the State's consolidated fund out of which a total of Rs 28 crore was allocated to Arts and Culture or less than 0.2 percent of the total expenditure. Comparing this with that of neighboring Assam which also saw the Film Policy receiving cabinet approval in 2019 which includes, amongst various incentives, an annual subsidy of upto 20 films, 25 percent subsidy for films with expenditure of Rs1 crore, Rs 1 crore subsidy for national award winning films and Rs 2 crore for Oscar winning films, besides a huge corpus for film artistes and various welfare schemes including pension benefits. Plans are afoot to include cinema halls under service industry to enable them to avail applicable benefits under the Industry Department.

According to an in-depth analysis of the current situation prevailing in the Manipur Film industry vis-à-vis the national scenario, noted economist Dr Chinglen Maisnam commented that the most important factor which will determine the future of the film industry in the state is the political will of the state government. Drawing comparisons and supplying relevant data to substantiate his comments, the economist states that Manipur produced a total of 15 films as against 34 from neighboring Assam and a national total of 2446 according to the Central Board of Film Certification- an achievement worth mentioning in view of the stifling conditions under which various operations have to be performed, financially, socially, politically and technologically.

The fledgling film industry in Manipur has come a long way despite the persistent challenges and inherent drawbacks, and is still making remarkable progress. If the state is to receive the benefits and services which this wonderful medium of entertainment and information can provide, then implementation of the Film Policy both in letter and spirit is the only way out. It is in the interest of this state and the societies comprising it that the film industry needs to be made strong and flourish. The role of films in protecting and propagating the message and image of a vibrant and united Manipur should never be undermined.

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## 6 music bands .....



In the fourth edition, we have tried to provide a platform for the budding artists from the region to share stage with the maestros through these unique auditions.

Organized by the Eastern Beats Music Society, the Guwahati International Music Festival involves a medley of music workshops for students, lecture-demonstrations by veteran artists and musical concerts by master performers. A number of global maestros have performed in the previous years of the festival. Among the artists who have performed in GIMEF, mention can be made of Pt

Bickram Ghosh, master percussionist and Music Director of the Hollywood blockbuster 'Matrix' (Greg Ellis USA), Padma Bhushan awardee Buddhadev Dasgupta, veteran harp player Brendan Power (United Kingdom), Nepali rock legends Abhaya Subba and Steam Injuns (Nepal), radical Baul singer and poet Mac Haque (Bangladesh), Ralf Kamphuis (Germany), Rishi Chowdhury (United Kingdom), Edwin Fernandes (Goa), Scavenger Project (Mizoram), Hornbill International Rock Competition 2019 winners UDX (Nagaland), amongst others.

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## Effects& Solutions of Stubble burning



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Stubble burning is intentionally setting fire to the straw stubble that remains after grains like paddy, wheat etc. have been harvested. India is an agricultural-driven economy where 50% of the population is engaged in the cultivation of agricultural products. The production of crops such as rice, sugarcane and wheat not only feeds the country but also a major contributor to the foreign export sector. The production of millions of tons of agricultural crop every year has also increased the agricultural waste that we as a country are dealing with right now. The waste commonly known as the residue is made up of organic compounds from various organic sources like rice straw, coconut shell, sugarcane bagasse to name a few. Since the residue compiles to form a really large amount, it becomes extremely difficult for farmers to take care of the waste. During the harvesting season, the reaping of the paddy fields generates a humongous quantity of husk which needs instant dumping. Farmers usually gather the husk and incinerate it as it is the easiest way to dispose it without leaving any trace of waste in sight. However, doing so creates serious issues that is directly linked for our environment. Research has shown that the burning of agricultural biomass residue or stubble is a major health hazard. It doesn't just

affects the organic carbon levels of the soil but also produces an uncontrollable amount of harmful smoke that causes air pollution to the immediate vicinity. A large number of toxic pollutants are emitted into our atmosphere due to open burning of the husk. These pollutants also contains harmful gases like methane, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These toxic gases either build a cloud of ash or formulate into smog that is formed due to the intensified amount of smoke present in the atmospheres. These harmful gases create an obstinate amount of cumulative danger that has the ability to travel thousands of kilometers, increasing the level of air pollution in the nearby cities and completely wrecking the air quality index and becoming the causes of numerous health issues. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana in north-west India has been cited as a major cause of air pollution in Delhi. Smoke from the burning produces a cloud of particulates visible from space and has produced toxic cloud in New Delhi. The burning of husk or stubble more often contributes to the frequent formation of brown clouds that have an adverse effect on the local air quality, hampers atmospheric visibility and further impacting the reason for climate change. We also need to understand that the burning of paddy or stubble leads to the loss of key nutrients as nearly 50% Sulphur, 75% potassium and 25% of the nitrogen and phosphorus is lost. A study estimates that crop residue burning at Punjab and Haryana, released 149.24 million tons of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), over 9 million tons of Carbon monoxide (CO), 0.25 million tons of oxides of Sulphur (SO<sub>x</sub>), 1.28 million tons of particulate matters and 0.07 million tons of black Carbon. These

directly contribute to environmental pollution and are responsible for the haze in Delhi and melting of Himalayan glaciers. Burning stubble causes increased soil erosion and heat from burning it penetrate 1cm into the soil elevating the temperature to 33.8°C to 42.2°C which kills beneficial soil organisms like bacterial and fungal populations critical for a fertile soil and eventually causes low yields. Burning of crop residue causes damage to other micro-organisms present in the upper layer of the soil as well as its organic quality. Due to the loss of 'friendly' pests, the 'wrath of enemy' pests has increased and as a result crops are more prone to disease. The solubility capacity of the upper layer of soil have also been reduced as intense burns induce the formation of a water repellent soil layer by forcing hydrophobic substances in litter towards through the soil profile. In dry environments, burning residues can reduce soil fertility quite quickly. Since soil organic matters holds sand, silt and clay particles into aggregates, a loss of soil organic matter results in a loss of soil structure. According to a report, one ton stubble burning leads to a loss of 5.5 Kgs of Nitrogen, 2.3 Kgs of Phosphorus, 25 Kgs of Potassium and more than 1 Kg of Sulphur- all soil nutrients, besides organic carbon.

Stubble burning is a serious issue and it must be sought an immediate effect. With such grave impact on the environment, understanding the importance of opting for potential alternatives to stubble burning is the only available solution. Providing stubble collecting machine to the farmers or offering reasonable labor to reap paddy fields in order to avoid stubble generation is the other way to control the issue. Offering temporary employment to the

people in need during the harvesting time is another way to combat the situation. One great way to approach the issue is to think of alternative to deal with it. **Converting stubble into energy** in an innovative way to address the matter. Not only it helps in reducing the greenhouse effect but also helps to fight against the threats of global warming. Setting up **biomass power plants** in the villages can help meet the energy needs of the villagers. Setting up biomass fuel plants to generate fuel using paddy husk or **making fodder for livestock** out of the collected stubble can also serve as an important step to bring down the adverse effect of crop residues finding their way into the environment during the needless burning of crops. Another impact of alternative practices to stubble burning on the environment is the using of **Happy Seeder**- a machine that can sow wheat in the presence of rice straw - is a profitable for farmers and can also help the environment. The researchers found that using the Happy Seeder led a nearly 10-20% increase in farmers profit on average. Since in **Happy Seeder practice** reuses the crop residue in the field, the biomass improves soil moisture and could be good for the long term health of the soil. In Happy Seeder practice formulating, the machine can be mounted on a tractor and it cuts and lifts rice straw, sows wheat into the bare soil and deposit the straw over the planted area as mulch. However, not all farmers currently have access to Happy Seeder equipment and there needs to be more available options for renting these machines as it is not affordable for everyone. Besides this, crop residues can also be effectively managed by using machines like: Rotavator; Zero till seed drill; Baler; Paddy straw chopper and reaper binder etc.

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## Mary Kom, Sports Minister, SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh send off athletes on maiden SpiceJet flight for Khelo India Games

By a Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan.9

SpiceJet joins hands with Khelo India as their official travel partner to provide unique flying experience to the participating athletes as the third edition of the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games is all set to be held from January 10-22, 2020 in Guwahati.

In a bid to make Khelo India a world-class sporting experience for the budding athletes, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has come together with SpiceJet to help more than 1000 kids experience the joy of flying.

On the occasion, The Hon'ble Sports Minister of India, Kiren Rijiju was present at the Indira Gandhi International Airport along with Sports Secretary Radheshyam



Jhulaniya, Director General SAI, Sandip Pradhan, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, Ajay Singh and other dignitaries, besides London Olympic bronze medalist Mary Kom for the official

ceremonial send-off. "Khelo India has been incredible at unearthing young talents who can be groomed to bring laurels for the country and its mission has been to introduce state-of-the-art

facilities to athletes from the grassroots level. I hope this unique partnership will further strengthen our commitment towards giving the best possible facilities to our athletes," said the Hon'ble Sports Minister.

SpiceJet will be running eight dedicated flights between Delhi-Guwahati and Kolkata-Guwahati sectors today and on January 14 and 15.

"This is a moment of pride and honour for SpiceJet that we could bring this exclusive flying experience for these young sports stars as the Khelo India Games provides a platform to build a robust sporting nation of tomorrow. We wish every participant all the very best," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet.

The presence of the six-time world champion Mary Kom was a bonus for the young stars, many of whom look up to the boxing queen. The Manipuri legend took her time to interact with the athletes and motivated them before they boarded the flight.

"In my early days I would struggle to buy even a pair of gloves. It is heartening to see Indian sports have come a long way. It's really great and encouraging to see an amazing flying experience is being provided to these budding stars," said Mary Kom.

The 13-day tournament will see 35 states and union territories battle it out in 20 sports at the Khelo India Games this time. To ensure a completely smooth and hassle-free journey for the athletes, the airline has come up with flexibility of baggage allowance (as players require more baggage allowance), cancellation or replacement of last-minute passenger and provision of meals for the convenience of the participants.

## Payas Jain, Munmun Kundu clinch gold medals the UTT 65th National School Games Table Tennis Championships

By a Correspondent  
Vadodra, Jan.9

Current national champion Delhi paddler Payas Jain and West Bengal's Munmun Kundu emerged champions in the U-17 boys and girls singles respectively at the UTT 65th National School Games Table Tennis Championships, under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI) at Sama Indoor Sports Stadium in Vadodra Yesterday.

While India No. 3 Payas overcame West Bengal's Aniket Sen Choudhury 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-7 in a hard-fought boys final, Munmun outclassed top-seeded Delhi's Vanshika Bhargava 11-7,

11-6, 11-4 in the one-sided girls title clash. "I made some errors initially. He (Aniket) was also playing equally well. After the first set, which I overcame from 8-10 down, I decided to play aggressively and that helped me win the match," Payas said after the match.

Two more gold medals of the individual events were added into Delhi's medal tally after Shreyas Goel and Tisha Kohli won their respective U-19 boys and girls matches. Top-seeded Shreyas beat Haryana's Wesley Do Rosario 11-3, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7 in the boys' final. While, Tisha Kohli completed 11-6, 8-11,

11-9, 12-10 victory against Maharashtra's Vidhi Shah. Maharashtra's team comprising Aditi Sinha, Tejal Kamble, Vidhi clinched U-19 girls team championships title with a 3-2 win over Delhi in the final.

The competition, which is jointly organised by UTT and Table Tennis Association of Baroda (TTAB), is supported by the Sports Authority of Gujarat (SAG), Gujarat State Table Tennis Association (GSTTA) and Vadodra Mahanagar Seva Sadan (VMSS). The Championships is also sponsored by IOCL, ONGC, GAIL and GACL.