

Dr Lokendra Arambam of Manipur University (scarf), Niketu Irulu (centre), Dr V K Nuh and others in Dimapur on November 7 at the opening of The Naga Archives and Research Center (NARC)
Photo credit : Witoobou Nsumai



The die is cast for the by-elections

By Iboiyama Laithangbam
Imphal, Nov. 8: Final touches have been given to the two by-elections with three candidates each left in the fray. The straight fight is between the Congress and the BJP candidates. The "politician" who is at a fishing expedition in both the constituencies is regarded as a stalking horse. Infuriated residents at Thangmeiband had banned him from further entries and same will be his fate at Thongju also. This will be the litmus test for both the parties. Chaoba frankly says that it will show whether his party

shall be able to wrest power from the Congress in the March 2017 elections. The outcome is unpredictable since it did not do well at Hiyanglam. It had just 24,492 voters. Since 5 candidates were in the fray the BJP candidate could have won if he had secured about 5,000 votes. The BJP did not have this much support. Both Thongju and Thangmeiband have voters near this figure which should sound outlandish compared to any constituency of Bihar. It will be a sorry outcome if the Modi wave has no impact to hardly 15,000 voters in either of the

constituencies. The November 24 result will also clearly show whether the Congress is on the way out. After the Hiyanglam by-elections most of the newspapers had published with screaming headlines that a voter got as high as Rs 5000. It remains to be seen whether the history is repeated. But if the candidates are defeated it will mean the beginning of the end of the Congress domination in the state politics. State and national politicians will closely monitor the by-elections since these are politically significant.

Insurgency movement in Manipur would be different had the then Union Government listened to one good IPS officer

IT News
Imphal, Nov 8: The fate of present day Manipur would have been different had the then Union government of late 1960s took necessary action on the report of one good Intelligence Bureau officer. According to a finding by the Imphal Times from the real life account of Maloy Krishna Dhar, who had been deputed in Manipur during 1968 in charge of the Intelligence Bureau office in Imphal, it is being learnt that the Intelligence bureau of that

time had enough information about the potential growth of insurgency in the state. According to the write up of the former Intelligence Officer, it has been revealed that they had deployed paid intelligence agents amongst the top functionaries of the RGM and the UNLF to collect information about the strategy and movement of the two underground groups which was on the rise. It was mentioned in his book that the IB that time had enough information about the Pakistan based Intelligence Agency ISI extending all possible assistance to any rebel group of the region. He wrote that he had concrete evidence of ISI setting up camps for Meitei rebel groups somewhere in Sylhet in

present Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan. "The deal between the Meiteis and the Pakistani intelligence agencies was cemented by Z. Ramyo, a Tangkhul Naga rebel leader, and Thinousile Angami, a self styled Brigadier of the outlawed Naga army. "Oinam Sudhir, Arambam Somorendra and N Bisheshwar were in contact with the Pakistani operators and over 150 youths had left for East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) for undergoing training", reports Mr. Dhar. Having understood the potential of the unwanted consequences, the intelligence officer did report the matter as according to his personal account. "My reports to Delhi were treated as over reaction of a

greenhorn. They, as well as the Chief Commissioner and his encourage were not ready to accept my views on the formation of the revolutionary Government of Manipur and its cadres being trained at East Pakistan (Bangladesh)". The IB officer disappointedly narrated that the then IGP Madan Gopal Singh treated the report as a joke. None of the Government machinery accepted the report. It is well understood that at that time Manipur was a Union territory and the center is directly handling the administrative affairs. Had the report been treated and acted immediately the present day Manipur would have been a different story.

72 hours bandh called

IT News
Imphal, Nov 8: The JAC formed against the killing of School head master on charge of cow theft has called 72 hours general strike from midnight of November 9 demanding arrest of the culprits involved in the killing of Md. Hashmad Ali, who was found brutally murdered on Nov 2.

Political party to fight AFSPA revived

IT News
Imphal, Nov.8: Media Meet on Resurgence and Reconstitution of the party of the political party Brachin National Union was held at Manipur Press Club today. The political party was revived under the leadership of L a i r e n l a k p a m Sharatchandra on last October 21, the party Addressing to media persons, Sharatchandra said that almost all political parties including those in the government are sidelining the issue of AFSPA. "It was only in the election time that AFSPA is being remembered and the newly revived political party will fight to repeal AFSPA.", he said.

Armistice Day Celebrated

IT News
Imphal, Nov 8: Armistice Day, Remembrance Day or Poppy Day celebrated at Imphal War Cemetery, Dulaland, Imphal today. Each year in November, Imphal Campaign Foundation WW2 led by Yumnam Rajeshwor, Co Founder of Imphal Campaign Foundation WW2, paid tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts.
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By-Election campaign: Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lambasts Congress Govt

IT News
Imphal, Nov.8: Union Minister of State Commerce and Industry, Nirmala Sitharaman who arrived in the state today hit the rival congress party while participating campaign for BJP at Thangmeiband and Thongju Assembly constituency. "Congress is almost the synonym of corruption, under the Chief Minister Okram Ibobi led-Congress government in Manipur, corruption has reached its peak in the state", said Nirmala Sitharaman during an election rally of BJP candidate Kh Jyokishan at Ima Khunthokganbi Sanglen, DM College campus, Thangmeiband today. Blaming Congress for its failure to take up developmental works, the union minister said, "Manipur Development Society is associated to Chief Minister's family; all the money sanctioned by the Centre goes to Ibobi and his relatives' pocket. Under his "corrupt and misuse" the state goes downward while the CM and his associates become richer".

"The BJP must win the by-election for two assembly constituencies - Thangmeiband and Thongju in order to free the people from the corrupt Congress regime", she said while seeking votes for BJP candidates, Kh Jyokishan of Thangmeiband A/C and Th Bishwajit of Thongju A/C. She also informed that the Centre has initiated the investigation on the infamous Loktak scam and soon the people of Manipur will be able to see the real pictures of the scam and involvement of Congressmen.

JD(U) assures BJP's defeat in Thongju and Thangmeiband A/C by-election

IT News
Imphal, Nov 8: Defeat in New Delhi Election and now in Bihar has confirmed that the Modi wave will not last long in India. This was stated by President of JD (U) Manipur Unit, M. Tombi in a press meet held at its office at Babupara today in connection with the Bihar election result. He further added that BJP is playing in communal

politics on food habit of these veteran politicians. Such communal politics led the BJP defeated in the election. Tombi said that the BJP will also defeat in the upcoming by-election of Thongju and Thangmeiband assembly constituencies of Manipur. On the other hand giving his personnel comment to the enrolment of various veteran politicians of the

Dr Lokendra Arambam speaks on 'Naga struggle' and Manipur



NNN
Dimapur, Nov.8: Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of Naga Archives and Research Center (NARC) on Saturday at Toulazouma, Dimapur, historian and political analyst, Dr Lokendra Arambam delivered a fascinating insight into how Manipur provide a critical subtext to the Naga political struggle. According to Dr Lokendra Arambam, Angami Zapu Phizo, in his urge to secure support for his people's struggle was learnt to have visited Imphal and met the then Chief Minister Maharaj Kumar Priyobarta of Manipur to discuss the possibility of a common endeavour to fight against

the Indian state. He said the period was one of the most critical periods in Manipur's modern history and pointed out that the people, after 56 years of British protection and rule was struggling to cope with the end of the devastating World War II and to retrieve the vestiges of ancient legacies of hills and plains unity. Dr Lokendra Arambam informed that the equilibrium of a polity in Manipur was destroyed through the "forced integration" into India in 1949. He also opined that the "Naga independence struggle" could be hastened from a priori thesis of the Nagas not being Indians. However for the Meetei, the long period of Indianization was countered by a conscious effort of de-Indianization and the new struggles that emerged after the forcible integration into India in 1949. He also informed that the founder of United National Liberation Front, (formed in 1964),

late Arambam Somorendra made a trip to Kohima in August 1968 to meet General Kaito and General Mowu Angami. "It seems General Mowu Angami had left for China, and General Kaito was just recently assassinated, and he returned, a little disappointed," he said. However, the post-Shillong Accord scenario of "mutual antagonism amidst the stalwarts of the struggle, and violent repression by the Indian army resulted to intense dislocation and displacements amongst the hill populations of Manipur", said Dr Lokendra Arambam. He informed that valley community in Manipur rendered "yeomen service" to hide the then stalwarts of the NNC in the suburban households of Imphal, "providing hospitality and infrastructural support" for the Naga cause. He also named Manipur Naga underground leaders who were "sheltered in the Meitei homes" during critical period.

Yellow Journalism: Hindus Killed Muslim Headmaster Over Calf Stealing And Communal Tension In Manipur

By - Dr. Malem Ningthouja
The brutal murder of a 'Muslim' headmaster Md. Hashmad Ali alias Babu (55) was confirmed in the wee hour, before the dawn of 2nd November, 2015. Outside Manipur, there was a deliberate mapping of Manipur into the ongoing 'communal intolerance' prevalent in 'mainland' India. To cite two examples, the Hindustan Times, dated 4th November, 2015 carried a news under the title *Headmaster Lynched for Stealing Cow; Shutdown Call in Manipur*. The following day, the New York Times published a news under the title *Indian Muslim, Accused of Stealing a Cow, is Beaten to Death by a Hindu Mob*. These news depicted about an "antagonistic co-existence" of communities or uneasily relation between majority Meeteis (Hindus) and minority Panggals (Muslims), as if marked by occasional clashes ever since a riot took place in 1993 and the emergence of Panggal based Islamic militant groups. In these reports, the murder and the agitation for justice are being construed with communal overtones. These were being shown as continuity of community hatred and

extension of the recent Hindu Muslim tensions centred on the ban on beef and protection of cow. The **Hindustan Times report incorporated a photo with the caption the murder of Muslim man in a UP village for allegedly eating beef had sparked national outrage. Similarly the New York Times incorporated a photo with the caption Kashmiri villagers shouted pro-freedom slogans last month while carrying the body of a Muslim driver attacked by far-right extremists angered by rumours of cow slaughter, an issue that stirs religious tensions in the Hindu-majority country.** These news distorted the facts of agitation and conveyed manufactured news about an irate Muslim public helplessly fighting vis-à-vis the regime of the Hindu majority that have denied the former protection and justice. The blame was on the Meetei. The misinformation have achieved widespread publicity, continuously reverberated on uncensored social networks. Such yellow journalism, indulged by some journalists objectified the Meetei as Hindus, hatching religious fundamentalism against minority Muslims. However,

information from the ground, provided by the relatives of the victim and other 'Muslim' friends, who are directly involved in the agitation for justice, says a different thing and exposes the intention of the yellow journalists. But, before placing the findings, there are at least three points that had to be briefly clarified. First, Meetei cannot be homogeneously identified with Hindu or Hinduism. Two, the Muslims who have settled for centuries in Manipur are known as Meetei Panggal. They possess localized linguistic and cultural characters that mark them distinctively peculiar to non-Manipuri Muslims. Third, Meetei and Meetei Panggal are neither socially exclusive to one another nor they are compartmentalized into watertight antagonistic communal politics. To sum up, the anachronous depiction of these communities by the media needs to be reviewed. To focus on the murder of 1st or 2nd November, it was plotted by Ali's distant relative and immediate neighbour Md. Matlib (a 'Muslim') to settle some personal grudges.
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