

# Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, December 30, 2015

## The year finally exit

Finally! a year that had witnessed a plethora of unique and amazing, and numerous not so pleasant surprises is coming to an inevitable end. People the world over, as is in the State are eagerly anticipating the sunset to wait out the fog end of the day and start the revelry and celebrate the successful closure of a period in one's life, but perhaps more for the sheer luck of surviving yet another precious year in this unpredictable and volatile society of ours. Whatever the reason, it would be an understatement to state that people everywhere is hoping in their hearts of better things to come, and wishing dear and near ones for good fortune and a better future has come to signify a great deal lot than just the thought, for it actually tells without actually mentioning the fact that we all still care and thought of the welfare of others, and that the spirit of festivity and celebration enthused all to warm up to beautiful and positive thoughts, save for a very few souls who are either beyond earthly desires or beyond redemption. This is the time when hope springs forth and reinvigorate our lives. It gives us a renewed vigour and desire to better ourselves. This is the gist of our future. We have a lot to wish and hope for, and indeed it is this hope that has and will sustain us in our life. Yet hope without the pursuit will only relegate it to a daydream, a waste of time. We have seen and experienced instances of excess, of violation and unwarranted aggression. Violence and fear has been driving factor that has made us scurry for safety and become cynical of the promises made by those who are at the helm of affairs, the very people who were entrusted to provide safety and progress for the people who chose them. The people of Manipur may feel cheated and betrayed, as they should, but hope is eternal, and as long as we have it in our hearts and work to realize it, nothing can stop us from achieving the things we hoped for. We need to be proactive and not wait for the tall promises to be delivered. It is now time to make things happen, and for that we have to get involved, make ourselves heard and be counted. It has been our collective endeavor here at ImphalTimes to provide the facts, real and undistorted, for the people to draw up an informed decision and opinion. There has been many challenges on the way, and we also know that there will be bigger ones which might slow us down, but we will not stop, nor will we bog down or bow to pressure because that would be betraying our own beliefs and hopes. As Albert Einstein famously suggested: Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. Perhaps, Franklin D. Roosevelt sums up the feelings of every one of us when he said "We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon". Wishing everyone a happy and better future from ImphalTimes.

## Breast cancer drug can be useful for other types of cancer

**ANI**  
**Washington D.C., Dec. 30:** Researchers have recently found that a new oral drug for breast cancer named, Palbociclib, has potential to combat other types of cancer as well. Scientists from University of Pennsylvania said that Palbociclib targets the rapid division of tumor cells by inhibiting the activity of the enzymes CDK4 and CDK6, which propel cell division and increase in number in most cancers. It is the first CDK4/6 inhibitor to be approved for the treatment of breast cancer. Lead author Amy S. Clark said that all living cells undergo cell division and Palbociclib has a unique capacity to halt the cell division process, therefore, it has potentially broad applicability. Clark added that pairing Palbociclib with other anti-cancer therapies such as endocrine therapy, chemotherapy, and targeted therapy can create a powerful combinatorial effect with real promise for addressing a variety of cancers. Researcher Peter J. O'Dwyer said that this drug has minor effects on normal cells other than neutrophils. In tumors, it can cause shrinkage, or more commonly, arrest of growth. Also, combining Palbociclib with other anti-cancer agents is feasible, and early results in myeloma and some solid tumors have led to more definitive studies. In both breast and other cancer trials, Palbociclib has been shown to be safe with once-daily dosing, and its main adverse effect is reversible neutropenia, an abnormally low count of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell that helps fight infections. The lower their neutrophil count, the more vulnerable patients are to infectious diseases. In such cases the drug is temporarily discontinued and reintroduced at a lower dose. The research is published in the journal 'JAMA Oncology'.

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Contd. from yesterday issue

## Human Rights and Self-Determination as Prerequisites for Real Development

The Dzongu Biosphere and National Park have come under ecological pressure from dam construction, starting with Teesta V, which was cleared in 1999 and created a reservoir 23 kms long. Several dams have now been built, and are thought a likely cause of the devastating 2012 earthquake. Lamas of the Bhutia and Lepcha communities in north Sikkim challenged the construction of the Ranthongchu Dam project in 1993-7, on the grounds that it was defiling a sacred landscape. Lepcha activists have continued this argument regarding Dzongu, using fasting to get some of the dams cancelled, out of as many as 26 proposed on the Teesta and its tributaries. In the words of Dawa Lepcha, "The entire Teesta River is being tunneled. The main river of Sikkim is disappearing. Is this development?"

The Agartala Declaration of 15 Feb 2013 asserted 'that land, forests, rivers and all natural resources in North East India belong to the indigenous people of the region... Our land and all the natural resources are inherent sources for our Life, Culture, Identity, Survival and future of our present and coming generations...' The main focus was against big dams, including misuse of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) 'carbon trading' credits, and extractive industries. Participants at the two-day event... expressed concern with the increasing corporatization of their lands and resources and the aggressive efforts to explore and drill oil in the region by corporate bodies, such as oil exploration efforts by Jubilent Energy in Manipur. Gas exploration in Tripura by ONGC, to mine uranium in Meghalaya by UCLIL, etc; combined with a pattern of increasing militarization.

The participants further said they are disturbed with the increasing involvement of international financial institutions, such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation etc in financing energy and water related projects and in deregulation of related policies to intensify corporatization of our land and resources. Finally, the organisers and participants of the Agartala event have expressed concern with the Government of India's non application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007 and the recommendations of other UN human rights bodies... They then recalled the obligations of all states to ensure participatory forms of development and to recognize indigenous peoples rights as reflected in the outcome of the UN Rio+20 Conference, June 2012.

The Agartala Declaration was reinforced by a similar Dimapur Declaration in May 2013, following a North East Peoples' Convention on Water Sources. Both events emphasized the principle of Free Prior Informed Consent, which so far has not been adhered to in decisions about giving clearance for these dams.

**Different models of development**  
So where is this drive for new dams coming from? India's Planning Commission declared in 1998 that only 30% of the country's hydropotential was being used, and that this should be raised to 90% by 2025. This statistical perspective is extremely warped, from lack of recognition of the destruction of communities and ecosystems. But why this needs to boost the country's electricity? Most of the electricity from the Northeastern dams is not to be used locally. In fact, many villages around big dams in Odisha and other states, and around new mega-power stations and coal mines in Singrauli (MP) have not received electricity, even though their quality of life has been severely damaged by electricity-generating projects. The Northeast's surplus electricity is intended to fund a new level of India's industrialisation, which is also based on mining and metal production.

But isn't this kind of industrialisation central to the development process? This idea is extremely pervasive, and I've become increasingly aware of how Charles Darwin's paradigm of evolution in nature has fed into it. The concept of evolution in nature is multiple, involving thousands of species developing in relation to each other, but each along different paths. When this paradigm was applied to human society and history however, the tendency was to imagine all societies evolving through the same, identical stages. Herbert Spencer was among the first to do this, using the phrase (usually attributed to Darwin) 'survival of the fittest'. Marx and Engels also gave a very persuasive monolithic scheme, tracing human evolution from 'primitive communism', via slave-owning societies and feudalism to capitalism, which they believed would finally break apart from its contradictions, clearing the way for advanced communism. The most headline and influential version is that produced by the World Bank and IMF, who classify countries, and regions within a country, into 'developed', 'developing' and 'under-developed' - a classification that we often take for granted now, yet badly need to question; both because closer examination shows that different countries and communities have developed in very different ways; and because this paradigm serves to justify the human sacrifice of 'less developed' lifestyles to promote development along a particular line, that feeds the self interest of a small elite - 'the one per cent'. One might call the baseline of this theory 'survival of the fittest'.

Another facet of industrialisation in Manipur is oil exploration, with the Indian Government promoting the sale of Manipur's oil deposits over several years, and an agreement signed with Netherlands-based Jubilent oil and gas company (which has a subsidiary based in Noida) in September 2010. Public Hearings in mid-2012 witnessed strong opposition to the plan, and the IB has reported that the Dutch NGO Cordaid has been coordinating support for over 50 villages within five kms of 30 planned oil wells. Some reports say that the deposits may be as much as five trillion barrels of oil. The 30 planned wells are spread through 4,000 sq kms in Jiribam (Imphal East), Tamenglong and Churachandpur districts, and each oil well would be over 2 kms deep. Activists and villagers are well aware of the catastrophic history of oil wells in regions populated by indigenous peoples, especially in Ecuador (also Columbia and Peru), Nigeria and Sudan, where there has been horrendous pollution of water sources and fields, and terrible civil conflicts, which could easily get out of hand in Manipur. A vital question is whether oil legislation passed in India that grants rights over all deposits to the state, or whether the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be respected here in insisting on indigenous people's rights over their natural resources? Similarly with a new sports university planned at Yathibhi Loukpon, and a new railway line, with impressive bridges and tunnels, connecting Manipur to the rest of India. What are the real costs and benefits of these projects, above all, for local people? It seems obvious that the heart of real development should be raising everyone's standard of living, instead of sacrificing people's food and water security and the enduring symbiosis that village communities have often developed over generations to live without damaging their natural environment.

Projects promoted as 'development' seem to be defined by the financial investment they bring. The trouble is, they don't bring much money to poor people; jobs on offer are mostly in the construction phase and don't involve any work security; and the people being negatively impacted are among the world's most advanced societies in terms of living sustainably. Human rights are often a major casualty of industrialisation-focused

development. Looking at Central India, in the tribal regions affected by the Maoist conflict, one witnesses more massed police being used to cow protesters against mines and metal factories than against the Maoists. For example, there have been strong protests against bauxite mines and aluminum and steel factories in Odisha, and these have faced vicious repression, involving several police firings, such as the Maikanch firing (near Kashipur in Rayagada district) that killed three people in December 2000, and the Kalanganagar firing in January 2006 that

killed 14 Adivasi villagers opposed to a new Tata Steel factory. Odisha is notable because several movements appear to have succeeded in stopping mega-projects - the Gandhamardan movement prevented bauxite mining on a mountain in western Odisha in the 1980s; the Niyamgiri movement has prevented Vedanta's similar plans for mountains in the Niyamgiri range; and the anti-Posco Movement has prevented construction of a new steel plant and port that was billed as India's biggest foreign investment. (To be contd.....)

## Problem of 1949 Annexation of Manipur

- 1948 AD**
- 26. 2 January - Manipur King attends Ruler's meeting at Shillong attended by Sardar Patel and State's Ministry - Later announced that Manipur becomes independent.
  - 27. 28 February - Hijam Irabot attends Calcutt Communist Conference with Asian Revolutionaries - adopts militant Chinese Revolutionary line (later on practised too)
  - 28. 25 May - Congress Election Manifesto: To abide by Manipur Constitution. (Congress members majority in the Constitution Drafting Committee)
  - 26 May - Assam Prime Minister Gopinath Bordoloi pleads autonomy of Manipur
  - 29. 11 June - Manipur Assembly election-popular government
  - 27 July -
  - 30. 23 June -
  - 3 July - Akbar Hyadari's reconnaissance to annex Manipur
  - 31. 2 August - Akbar Hyadari's letter to the King: Dewan simply watches 'Treaty Relation' between two countries- Manipur and India. He is very categorical about the word Treaty like Katzu
  - 32. 22 August - Akbar Hyadari abolished Dominion agency
  - 32. 22 August - PC Ghose preaches Purbanchal theory in meeting
  - 34. 18 September - Manipur Hills and Plains meeting opposes Ghose proposal
  - 35. 20 September - Tomal Congress Writes To Indian Constituent Assembly: Manipur independent unit of India (probably in the sense of continent)
  - 36. 21 September - Manipur State Council declares Krishak Sabha and Prtja Sangha unlawful organisations
  - 37. 21 September - Hijam Irabot goes underground.
  - 38. 18 October - Manipur Legislative Assembly opened: popular sovereign government operates
  - 39. 26 November - Prajashanti Led Government (Non-Congress) sworn in. Insignificant Congress minority propagates for Indian annexation of Manipur; Annexation would nullify unlawfully the Manipur Constitution, they themselves drafted in the Committee
- 1949 AD**
- 40. 10 March - Assembly Q. No. 21 L. Achou about Governments knowledge of the information about Manipur's merger with India
  - 41. 22 March - Assam Governor Shri Prakash discusses with king about Manipur Communist insurgency. Rustomji Chatterjee at Imphal
  - 42. 14 April - India Government asks king to transfer all powers to Dewan (an unconstitutional parallel centre of power)
  - 43. 16 April - King appointed Major General Amar Singh as Dewan
  - 44. 5 June - Manipur Socialist Party meeting urges for referendum on Manipur - India Relation.
  - 45. 25 June - Prakash secret memo, to King - India does not recognise Manipur State Council and the elected assembly (Popular Sovereign)
  - 46. 26 July - Congress Bulletin 4: Indian Congress backs Manipur Congress - Slogan to dethrone the Constitutional figurehead-king
  - 47. 29 July - Hill MLAs against annexation of Manipur by India
  - 48. 3 August - Public meeting resolution to India's Prime Minister. Manipur cannot be merged with India
  - 49. 15 August - 4000 Congressmen celebrate Independence and day and Students' Federation hoists Black Flag. Ex-Minister Dr. Leiren hoists Black Flag.
  - 50. 25 August - Ruling Manipur MLAs against annexation of Manipur- Meeting resolution to Deputy Prime Minister. India not to annex Manipur to his country
  - 51. 7 September - Shri Prakash Telegrammes King To Discuss "Affairs of State" at Shillong
  - 52. 8 September - Young Socialist League meeting opposes annexation
  - 53. 17 September - King reaches Shillong
  - 54. 18, 19 September - King communicates to Indian agent at Shillong that he lacks capacity to enter into treaty as all political powers have been lawfully transferred to people
  - 55. 18 September - Shri Prakash telegrammes to Patel and V.P. Menon: Manipur Maharaja detained under Regulation III and 'ANY OTHER MEANS' (Code language of House arrest of king under military seize). - King as captive and mental torture.
  - 56. 18 September - PS to King writes to Shillong SP to withdraw forces encircling Manipur King. Seize continues. Maharajah's all communication lines snapped. Literally, he is a captive.
  - 57. 20 September - Psychic oppression and seize continues on the king
  - 58. 21 September - King coerced under duress to sign annexation treaty
  - 59. 21 September - Bhagyabati Patrika Manipur Public opinion: Manipur cannot be subjugated and made subservient to a foreign nation (India).
  - 60. 15 October - Mr. Velodi, State Minister. India occupies Manipur.
  - 61. 15 October - Major General Amar Singh takes over Manipur against people's will
  - 62. 15 October - Gazette of India, Ministry of State Notification No. 219-p, Dated 15 October 1949- order to dissolve popular Ministry and the elected Manipur Legislative Assembly (Suspended Sovereignty) **(Concluded)**