

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, January 14, 2016

## All about transparency

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The word 'Corruption' connotes many things for many people and under differing circumstances which makes it difficult to define. However, in a narrow sense, corruption is mostly concerned with 'bribery' and 'undue advantage' and it takes several forms. Transparency International- a global movement with the vision to free the world of corruption and having chapters in more than 100 countries leading the fight against corruption describes "Corruption" as the abuse of power for private gain. It is a global phenomenon and is pervasive in almost every society the world over. Corruption, especially in a state such as ours where strife and unrest is a part of our everyday life, is a consequence of the parasitic nexus between Bureaucrats, politicians and criminals. Its reach and chronicity can perhaps be gauged by the very fact that at one time, bribe was paid for getting wrong things done but now bribe is being paid for getting right things done at right time. Today, India ranks 85 out of 174 countries, on par with Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Thailand, Philippines, Peru, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Trinidad & Tobago according to the Corruption Perception Index 2014 Report released by Transparency International. The big question is: Is it possible to contain corruption in our society? To fully answer the question, it would be crucial to understand certain perceptions and myths such as: Corruption is a way of life and nothing can be done about it, or that only people from underdeveloped or developing countries are prone to corruption. Distrustful or apathetic attitude of the public towards the political system, its institutions and its leadership also creates a big hurdle to challenging corruption. The best weapon for fighting corruption is transparency. It is about shedding light on rules, plans, processes and actions. It is knowing why, how, what, and how much. Transparency ensures that public officials, civil servants, managers, board members and businesspeople act visibly and understandably, and report on their activities. And it means that the general public can hold them into account. It is the surest way of guarding against corruption and helps increase trust in the people and institutions on which our future depend. Corruption is an intractable problem and can only be kept in check if representatives from the government, business and civil society work together to develop standards and procedures they all support. It cannot be eliminated in one fell swoop. It is a global problem that all countries of the world have to confront, solutions, however, can only be home grown. We have tolerated corruption for so long, hoping the next person will take up the cudgel for us. The time has now come to root it out from the society, and if we are to succeed, we all should give it a hand.

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## Shumang Lila (Courtyard Play) in Tribal dialects: A case study

As we have observed, famous film stars of Manipur act in the Shumang Lila - may be to extract and train themselves with the rich artistic intelligence and values. It is a totally live media, the artist used to perform at the centre of hundreds of spectators sitting around him. There cannot be a cheating in acting and no chance of rewind or recast. What has happened on the stage is always the message. Right from the moment the artist comes out on the stage to the moment he leaves it, every movement is the message. The audience is always active and alert in Shumang Lila. It is the only media which maintains a uniform emotion for its heterogeneous audience. Shumang Lila attracts audience from all walks of life ranging from the most learned to the most illiterate, the richest to the poorest, and the most foolish to the wisest. It is the performance which can entertain people of all sections, all age-groups and all occupations. Its popularity as a very effective medium lies in its local touch. The story, the language, the artists - all is ours. The messages given in Shumang Lila can go deep in our hearts. It is a unique and popular media among the people irrespective of age, literacy level, profession etc. It is different from other art forms because all members of a family from the youngest to the eldest are its audience.

"To the Manipuris, Shumang (Courtyard) is an important platform for learning and games. It is an institution unavoidably utilized from birth to death. Shumang Lila was born and brought up in the courtyard. Still the Manipuris love Shumang Lila, which continuously discusses various issues from time to time. It informs, educates, entertains and motivates the audience. It is being performed on various occasions such as 'Chakcha Heijanaba' (Feasting), 'Naa Huipa' (Ear piercing ceremony), 'Lugun Thangba' (Thread bearing ceremony), 'Ming Thonba' (Naming Ceremony), marriage and even death ceremonies in Manipur society." Shumang Lila is a composite indigenous art form of Manipur that informs, educates, entertains, persuades and motivates people on a variety of issues.

**ORIGIN OF SHUMANG LILA**  
Shumang Lila is believed to have derived from the tradition of 'Tangkul Nurabi Loutaba' performed on the night of the last day of the Lai Haraoba festival as an important ritual, as this dramatic episode had all the elements of a Shumang Lila performance - humour, pantomimic elements with simple and meaningful dialogues from the rites, traditional proverbs, riddles, singing and dancing. In spite of the absence of concrete historical evidences, this is a generally agreed notion among scholars. Shumang Lila had been known as "Jatra" or "Jatrawali" in the beginning, may be because of the fact that those performers were always leading personalities of the locality and these plays were performed for important occasions. 'Jatra' literally means 'Lead'. During the reign of Chandrakirti Maharaj (1850-1886), a genre called 'Phagee Lila' (Comedy play) came up. In this, the comedians of the time such as Abujamba Saiton and Kharibam Laishuba were summoned to the palace and made to perform to entertain the courtiers particularly the royal women. Later on,

comedians like Laithangba, Uritmahum, Heingimaru etc. became popular artists. Phagee Lila was also performed during the Durga Puja festival also. Phagee Lila was out and out comedy, cooking up of absurd stories on the spot to entertain the audience. During the reign of Churachand Maharaj (1891-1941), Moirang Parva, Mandav Lila and Phagi Lila such as Phadibi Pala and Kabul Lila were popular. Present contemporary Shumang Lila may be perceived as a combination born out of Mandav Lila and Phagi Lila as all elements present in them are present in Shumang Lila. According to Manipur State Shumang Lila Council, the Moirang Parva performed at Wahengbam Leikai Panjee Mayum Lampak in 1894/95 was the first Shumang Lila performance. Among the early Shumang Lila performances, mention may be made of Harishchandra (1918), Sabitri Seitaban, Meiraba Charan, Thok Lila etc. During the reign of King Churachand (1891-1941), a gifted artist called Chukhram Iboh and his troupe performed a satirical play against the water tax levied on people using Imphal River. On hearing this, the King arrested him and made to perform the play in front of the King. Earlier, Shumang Lila was performed without any script, on the basis of the story made up with the improvisation of the artists. There were no assigned directors for the plays. 'Puya Meithaba' (Burning of Puya) was the first scripted play and it was followed by BA Mapa Lambomba around 1945-46. In the 1970s, Shumang Lila female troupes (Nupi Shumang Lila) were born. A form of Shumang Lila with full of comedies called 'Epom' was also

born by 1970. 'Epom' has been one of the most popular form of Shumang Lila in Manipur, although it is almost non-existent nowadays with the demise of popular comedians such as Mayang Imphal Tombi, Takhellambam Chaoba, Nameirakpam Babu etc. The storyline and comic framework of this play was based on complete improvisation of the skillful artists. The comedic plays like the 'Nokphade' are not Shumang Lila in the real sense. In 1971, All Manipur Jatra Association was formed and the Manipur State Kala Academy changed the name of the performance to "Shumang Lila" by organizing the Shumang Lila Festival from 1973 onwards. Prior to this, Shumang Lila competitions were conducted by Theatre Centre and later by Publicity Department of Manipur Government. Playwrights and Directors began to occupy indispensable positions in the production of Shumang Lila. Names of playwrights such as Manaobi MM, Chana Lukhoo, Rupachandra Gosh, Niladhawja Khuman, etc. have become popular among the Shumang Lila audience nowadays. Renowned Directors such as late Birjit Ngangomba put in efforts to modernize this traditional art form to suit the changing times and tastes of the contemporary audience. Elements of choreography, music and other effects have been added to Shumang Lila, when Shumang Lila endeavors to show various imaginary actions like flight-take-offs. Shumang Lila has successfully portrayed the infamous events like the attacks on World Trade centre.

(To be contd.....)

### Migration and Marksheets Certificate Lost

I have lost my Mark sheet and migration certificate for class xii bearing roll no. 3632565 of 2013 issued by CBSE and mark sheet of class x bearing roll no. 742 of 2011 issued by BOSEM on the way between Konthoujam to Patsoi on 27/12/2015.

Finders are requested to handover to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Konthoujam Ariyan Singh  
Konthoujam

### Wanted Sub-Editor

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## NIA probes call records to establish Pakistan connection

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, Jan. 14:** NIA officials have begun putting together the phone records of the roughly 3000 people who stayed at the Pathankot Air Force station. Computer programmers are using specialised software to check how many of the people living in Pathankot were in touch with people in Pakistan. Computerised checks are essential because during questioning suspects have denied that they were in touch with people across the border. The NIA has not yet been able to

procure the call records of every person who lived at the Pathankot airbase. Investigators hope that by using specialised software they should be able to determine who were the people who used to make regular calls to Pakistan. Apart from this the NIA has asked for CCTV footage from all the petrol pumps that are on the route taken by the terrorists after they hijacked SP Salvinder's car. NIA wants to check if the car stopped for refuelling and if the cameras have captured images of the passengers.

## Foreign Secretary-level talks not to take place tomorrow

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, Jan. 14:** The Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan will not place tomorrow, sources said. Source, however, added that the talks would take place at a later stage. Reports as per Pakistan media suggested earlier that Islamabad had detained several militants belonging to JeM, including

Masood Azhar, and sealed its offices. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had a two-hour long meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last evening. According to reports, it has been decided to wait for the return of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval from Paris today for a final decision to be taken with regard to the talks.

## Secretary-level talks must not be cancelled: R.K. Singh

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, Jan. 14:** Former home secretary and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP R.K. Singh on Thursday said foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan must not be cancelled if the reported detention of Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar in connection with the Pathankot terror attack is true. "Till then it is not clear that the Pakistan army is not considering itself in normalizing relations with India these question will keep raising. Till then army is not taken in confidence, there will be no solution and these things will keep happening. If the civilian government is putting so much effort and if the detention is true then I think the talks should take place. It would not be good if the talks are cancelled," Singh told ANI here.

This is just a media report. But the primary indication suggests that Pakistan's civilian government is serious in pursuing this. The military and ISI are not subordinate to the civilian government there. If ISI and Pakistan Military is involved in the Pathankot attacks, I don't think real perpetrators will be punished," he added. While responding to the reported detention of Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar in connection with the Pathankot terror attack, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) late on Wednesday evening said there was no official confirmation from Islamabad in this regard. "We have no official confirmation on the arrest of JeM chief Masood Azhar. We have seen the press release that has been put out by the Pakistani side, but we have no official confirmation on the arrest," said MEA official spokesperson Vikas Swarup.

## At least two dead in car bomb attack at Turkish police station

**ANI**  
**London, Jan 14:** At least two people have been killed and 39 others injured in a car bomb attack on a police station in Turkey's Diyarbakir province in the town of Cinar. According to The Guardian, a woman and a baby are believed to be dead in the raid which has been blamed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

The bomb caused heavy damage to the outer walls of the police station, and the attackers then followed up with rockets and long-range gunfire. Another police station was attacked with rocket launchers in Midyat town, in province of Mardin. No casualties were reported there. No group has yet claimed either of the attacks.

## Massive earthquake jolts northern Japan

**ANI**  
**Tokyo, Jan. 14:** An earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan on Thursday. There are no reports of any injuries or casualties due to the

earthquake which struck off the coast of Hokkaido in Japan. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) has ruled out the possibility of Tsunami due to the earthquake. Further details are awaited.