

# Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, May 10, 2016

## Contemplations over the contentions

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." -Ancient Indian Proverb

The opposing stands on the three bills passed unanimously by the state assembly on 31 August last year after a public outrage against the state government demanding stringent measures to ensure the protection of indigenous inhabitants of the state from the increasing influx of migrants has evidently hardened. The All party delegation headed by the Chief Minister which will be heading for the national capital to push for the assent of the President in order for the three bills: The protection of Manipur People Bill 2015, The Manipur Land Revenue & Land Reforms (7th Amendment) Bill 2015 and The Manipur Shops and Establishments (2nd Amendment) Bill 2015 to become acts has expressed in no uncertain terms that the enactment of the bills is a must and nothing short of it is acceptable. The delegation was formed after 33 representatives of different political parties including Congress, BJP, MPP, CPI, LJP and Trinamool Congress among others agreed on the issue after deliberations and discussions which included the vehement objections raised against the bills by a section of the population. On the other hand, the NPF and other civil Society organizations, especially in Churachandpur District are alleging the bills to be anti-tribal, raising apprehensions about the possible loss of control of hill areas by the tribals to the inhabitants of the valleys.

While the sentiments of the hill people and their apprehensions are understandable, the fact of the matter is that there is a stark imbalance in the landholding laws existing in the state that needs to be rationalized and amended at the earliest. Until and unless the lop-sided land laws are rectified, the increasing pressure on the limited and meagre valley area will ignite more agitations and outrage for reforms. It is also absurd, and rather far-fetched for the hill people to jump to the conclusion that the three bills are devised to rob them of their hold on the hill areas as the very land in the hills are owned not by individuals but by the chiefs of the villages which makes the claims by hill-dwelling individuals of their lands being threatened untenable. In any case, the rapidly increasing pace of urbanization which is putting even greater strain on the valley is bound to explode and radiate outward on all sides sooner or later, and the people of the state, instead of trying to secure their personal interests, should accept and prepare for such an inevitable future.

If one would care to take a different perspective on the issue, the increase in the settlement of hitherto uninhabited areas of the state will increase the prospect of generating more avenues for employment and earnings, and with the naturally endowed beauty and friendly climate, there is no doubt that the state can truly be transformed into the "Switzerland of India" and "Jewel of India" as visitors from outside the state have variously described.

The need of the hour, keeping in mind the future of the state and its inhabitants, is to take a long hard look and accept the changes that are happening as well learn to accept and prepare for the inevitable future instead of trying to cling on to the fading past.

### MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

No. 1/1(25)/2014-LA(E) AUCTION : It is hereby informed to all approved firms of the Assembly Secretariat that the following condemned official vehicles of this Assembly Secretariat are going to be disposed of on Auction Sale on 16-05-2016:

Sl. No.	Type of Vehicle	Regd. No.
1	Elantra Car	MN01W-0218
2	Esteem Car	MN01K-4750
3	Cosmo Bus	MN01K-1610
4	Ambassador Car	MN01K-2750
5	Ambassador Car	MN01K-7300
6	Auto Rickshaw	MN01M-4654

Therefore, the intending approved firms of this Assembly Secretariat may apply for bidding for the auction sale of the above listed vehicles on or before 13-04-2016.

Sd/-  
G Tapankumar Sharma  
Deputy Secretary(Admn),  
Manipur Legislative Assembly

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# "10<sup>th</sup> May 1942"- First Imphal Bombing of World War 2<sup>nd</sup> Prelude, Facts and Consequences

**Yumnam Rajeshwar Singh**  
Rangoon was abandoned on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1942 (by British) and occupied by the Japanese the following day. The British managed to evacuate sufficient supplies of food and petrol to maintain their forces on the retreat, saving the army from starvation as it trudged towards India. After a fortnight on 19<sup>th</sup> March General Alexander appointed Major General Slim, a former officer of the Gurkha Regiment (Fergal Keane). General Slim's regiments came out of Burma as skin and bones, in rags, though under arms, and took post along the frontier for the monsoon.... The end of the retreat was in sight. The British columns disappeared into the mountains of Manipur as the monsoon rains broke. As the last echelons passed over the Tamu road it was washed out behind them. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Alexander's Army of Burma ceased to exist as a command, and his troops were incorporated into the 14th corps of the Indian Command

based on Imphal... There is a tale which must be told elsewhere of the suffering of the 4,00,000 Indian and Burmese refugees who fled before the fire and sword of the enemy (Japanese). Probably 10,000 died on the road to India, most of them in the dreaded Hukawng Valley beyond Myitkina (Frank Owen). A refugee camp was established just north of Imphal at Koirengai. Here they came in their hundreds. Many had no money, food or spare clothing. Many, above all the women and children, were desperately ill. On most days the road was packed, until one felt one must be emerging from a football stadium. For the refugees India had become the Promised Land. Manipur was for them not India. They must go farther, beyond the Brahmaputra, in their search of safety.... Day and night the march went on. Those who dropped out lay where they fell. Vultures waited above the refugee camps and halting-places could

be seen from afar. Every night a score of corpses was burnt lest an epidemic break out. Children were leaving their parents, and parent their children. The farther they walked, the less they carried (Geoffrey Evans). On 9 March 1942, the 64<sup>th</sup> Sentai was transferred to Chieng Mai airfield, in Thailand, in preparation for operations over Burma... The Unit arrived with 15 Ki-43s and two Ki-27s, as well as one captured Hurricane. Both the Ki-43s and Ki-27s were used for escorts of 52 Ki-21s bombers which were operational at that time. From early May 1942, the 64<sup>th</sup> Sentai operate from its new air base at Toungoo in Burma (Hiroshi Ichimura) In April (1942) Japanese reconnaissance planes began to fly over nearly everyday. The siren whined, but never a bomb dropped. After a sequence of false alarms the warnings became little more than tiresome interruptions to the day's leisurely routine, and soon they were regarded with scant respect. Indeed

Gimson (Christopher Gimson was the then British Political Agent) recalls that when the siren did sound mid -Morning on May 10<sup>th</sup>, he said to his assistant: "I must remember to tell Hurrell (Commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> Assam Rifles at Singjamei) to stop these silly signals". An hour later the siren wailed again. "Damn!" exclaimed Gimson on his verandah. "I forget to tell Hurrell"... These were almost famous last words. Bombs crashed upon bazaar and cantonment alike. Seventy civilians were killed and another eighty wounded, while a score of European refugees, one of them, a judge, were caught either in camps or lorries and killed (Geoffrey Evans) As per the British Records, following 84 Manipurians were recorded death on that fateful day of 10<sup>th</sup> May 1942. There are mistakes in spelling of names of individuals and name of places. The exact words from the record are reproduce to adhere to authenticity.

SL. NO	SURNAME	AGE	IN GRAVE RECORDS
1	ABDUL HALIM	33	OF KHERAGAO. DIED AT IMPHAL.
2	ACHUNGPA KABUI NAGA	26	OF MANJER KHUL. DIED AT MANJER KHUL.
3	AJIGAR	34	OF MANTRI PUKHRI. DIED AT MANTRI PUKHRI.
4	AKOIJAM THARE DEVI	50	OF LAMABAM LEIKAI. IMPHAL AT LAMABAM LEIKAI, IMPHAL.
5	ALIGAR KHAN	32	OF KHAN SAHIB'S HATTA, IMPHAL. DIED AT EUROPEAN REFUGEE CAMP, IMPHAL.
6	AMARU NAGINEE	22	OF MANJER KHUL. DIED AT KHOYATHONG
7	AMIR-UD-DIN MIAN	30	OF KAIRANG. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
8	AMUREIMA DEVI	32	OF SINJABUNG LEIKAI. DIED AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
9	ANGANGMACHA DEVI	80	OF LAMABAM LEIKAI. DIED AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
10	BAJET PAO KABUE NAGA	35	AT MANJER KHUL.
11	BARUN DEVI	32	OF KONSAM LEIKAI. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
12	BHABUR THAMI	45	OF CHINGMEIRONG. DIED AT REFUGEE CAMP, BRITISH RESERVE, CHINGMEIRONG.
13	CHABANGBAM TOLMU SING	55	OF KHURAI, SOIBAM LEIKAI. DIED AT SOIBAM LEIKAI.
14	CHABUNGAM ONGBI BHUMAR	40	OF KOIRENGAI. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
15	CHINGANGBAM LALA SING	20	OF KHURAI, CHINGANGBAM LEIKAI. DIED AT MANTRI PUKHRI.
16	DALIP SINGH	43	AT IMPHAL.
17	GINAM BHUBAN SING	13	OF FOUSANGBAM LEIKAI, THANGMEIBAND. DIED AT THANGMEIBAND.
18	HACTOMBA KABUI NAGA	45	AT MANJER KHUL.
19	HEIKRUJAM MEINA SING	27	OF SAGOLBAND. DIED AT REFUGEE CAMP, BRITISH RESERVE.
20	HEIKRUJAM RAJMANI SING	19	OF NUNGU VILLAGE. DIED AT LAIKANGBAM LEIKAI.
21	IBEM LAL DEVI	34	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
22	IBEMCHAABI DEVI	11	OF POLEM LEIKAI. DAUGHTER OF SAKHI DEVI. DIED AT POLEM LEIKAI.
23	IBETON DEVI	2	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
24	IROM IBOCHA SING	20	OF KHURAI KONKHAM, LEIKAI. DIED AT MANTRI PUKHRI.
25	JANAB ALI	50	OF KHAN SAHIB'S HATTA, IMPHAL. DIED AT EUROPEAN REFUGEE CAMP, IMPHAL.
26	JUBATI DEVI	20	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
27	KAKHUPUM KABUI	25	AT MAJORKHUL, IMPHAL.
28	KAMINI DEVI	35	OF SAGOLBAND, NANDIEBAM LEIKAI, IMPHAL. DIED AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
29	KAMINI DEVI	36	OF KONSAM LEIKAI. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
30	KANGHUIAM THORI THORI SING	23	OF KHURAI LALANBUNG, KHEIDEM LEIKAI. DIED AT AWANG.
31	KARAM SINGH	28	AT IMPHAL.
32	KETUKI DEVI	20	OF NINGTHOUBUNG. DIED AT IYAMAPAL.
33	KHETRIMAYUM ANGRU SING	34	OF KONGPAL, KHETRI LEIKAI. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
34	KHETRIMAYUM NINGOL PENU	36	OF KANGAJABI, NAGAMAPAL, MANIPUR. DIED AT KANGAJABI.
35	KHOMDON SANA RAJ KUMAR	14	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
36	KHOMEI DEVI	19	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
37	KUMARI DEVI	36	OF KONSAM LEIKAI. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
38	LAIMAYUM CHAOMACHA SHARMA	66	OF POLEM LEIKAI, IMPHAL. DIED AT POLEM LEIKAI.
39	LAISAM YAIMA SING	17	OF CHINGTHAM LEIKAI. DIED AT MXWELL BAZAR, IMPHAL.
40	LAISRAM TOMBA SING	30	AT TOP NOARIA.
41	LAMABAM IBOONGOTON SING	56	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
42	LEIRIK DEVI	21	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
43	LEMABAM TAMPHAMANT DEVI	13	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
44	LOITONGBAM TOMBA SING	60	OF LALAMBUNG MAKHONG. DIED AT KWAI LALAMBUNG, IMPHAL.
45	LUCAS TOPPO	OF	KUTUNIA, GANGPUR. DIED AT MANIPUR ROAD.
46	MADHUMATI DEVI	22	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
47	MALIKA DEVI	50	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
48	MANI SHARMA	24	OF TERA KEITHEL. DIED AT KHOYATHONG
49	MOIRANG LEIMA DEVI	74	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
50	MUHAMMAD MIAN	30	OF KHERAGAO VILLAGE, IMPHAL. DIED AT THE IMPHAL-DIMAPUR ROAD.
51	NAKE NAGINEE	45	OF THANGMEIBAND. DIED AT MANJER KHUL.
52	NAMRAN YAIMA SING	25	OF NAMEIRAKPAM LEIKAI, MOIRANGKHAM. DIED AT MANTRI PUKHRI.
53	NANDIESBAM MOHAN SING	25	OF CHINGTHAM LEIKAI. DIED AT MAXWELL BAZAR, IMPHAL.
54	NGANGBAM AMUTHOI SING	18	OF LAMABAM LEIKAI. DIED AT TERA URAK.
55	NGANGBAM GUREMANI SING	46	OF KANGABAM LEIKAI, IMPHAL. DIED AT KHOYATHONG
56	NINGTHAN KHONGJAM NARAN	53	OF MOUGSANGEL, IMPHAL. DIED AT LEI INKGHOL.
57	NINGTHONJAM GOKUL CHAND	40	OF MOIRANG KAMPU. DIED AT REFUGEE CAMP, BRITISH RESERVE.
58	NIPAMACHA SING	41	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
59	NONGTHONBAM ONGBI TONSUA	40	WIFE OF NONGTHONBAM TOMBA. DIED AT LAMLONGGEL, IMPHAL.
60	NUPIMACHA DEVI	35	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
61	PANCHASANI NAGINEE	50	OF THANGMEIBAND. DIED AT NAGA BAZAR.
62	PANTI SINGHIK NAGINEE	35	AT MANJER KHUL.
63	PENU DEVI	22	AT LAIKANGBAM LEIKAI.
64	PHIJAM CHAOBA SING	50	AT LALAMBUNG MAKHONG.
65	RULIA RAM	38	AT IMPHAL.
66	SAGOLSEM MANI SING	30	AT LOURUNGPUREL LEIKAI.
67	SAKHI DEVI	38	AT POLEM LEIKAI.
68	SAMSOO MIAN	35	AT KHETRI.
69	SANASAM MEINE SING	37	AT LOURANGPUREL LEIKAI.
70	SARAF-UD-DIN MIAN	26	OF KAIRANG VILLAGE. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG.
71	SHYAMA	29	(ALIAS YAIMABI DEVI). OF SAGOLBAND, NANDEIBAND LEIKAI. DIED AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
72	SHYAMA DEVI	39	AT LAMABAM LEIKAI.
73	THAKCHOM BRAJAMANI SING	20	OF URIPOK SOIRABAM THINGEN, KABRAMBAM, LEIKAI. DIED AT KHUYATHONG.
74	THAMBAL DEVI	40	AT KANGJABI LEIRAK, MEINAM LEIKAI.
75	THARO DEVI	40	OF KHONGHAMPAT. DIED AT CHINGMEIRONG
76	THIAM IBOTON SING	28	OF KEISAMPAT, IMPHAL. DIED AT MAXWELL BAZAR, IMPHAL.
77	THIAM NARAHARI SING	39	OF THANGMEIBAND. DIED AT MAXWELL BAZAR, IMPHAL.
78	THIAM NARHARI SING	40	OF LILASINGKHONGRANG MAKHONG. DIED AT AWANG DUKAN.
79	THOKPAM LALA SING	21	OF KONGKHAM LEIKAI. DIED AT MANTRI PUKHRI.
80	THOUDAM DEVEN SING	24	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
81	THOUDAM IPI SING	23	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
82	THOUDAM UPENDRA SING	28	AT MAINAM LEIKAI.
83	YUMLEMBAM MANGI	16	SON OF YUMLEMBAM CHANDRAHAS. DIED AT KHUYATHONG POLEM LEIKAI.
84	YUMNAM KAMAL SING	35	OF LAMABAM LEIKAI. DIED AT MANIPUR.

(To be continued...)