

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Points to ponder

Although no written document about the history of Nagaland exists, medieval documents of the neighbouring Ahom in present Assam State mentioned that in 1816 Assam was invaded by the Burmese (ava) after which they controlled the place (1819-1826). After 1826, the British annexed the region and started ruling over it. By 1892, the entire Naga region excepting Tuensang came under the British rule thus bringing to an end the massive bloodshed and inter-regional conflict. Post independence, the district of Assam called Naga Hills and Tuensang were made to represent a single unit under Indian administration. At the Naga Peoples Convention in 1960, it was finally decided that Nagaland will be considered a full-fledged state of India and in 1963, Nagaland was finally declared a separate state. But political and factional conflicts continued all these while and even presidential rule was declared after which many anti-government leaders agreed to accept the administration of the Indian Government. This is the simplest version of the so called unique history of the Nagas. Cut to the present- the demand for an "alternative arrangement", according to the Committee on Alternative Arrangement, the proposed regions will have a political system independent of the Manipur Government- meaning in simpler terms- freedom to do anything they like and wish without any government intervention (extortion, collection of illegal taxes from vehicles plying through the regions, looting and vandalizing of goods, battering of drivers to death, molesting women); otherwise why has the committee still adamant on sticking to their point of a separate region by disintegrating the state of Manipur, even when the Government has promised to review the working of the various development projects in all the hill districts of the State and to expedite ongoing ones. The contention of being neglected for decades is also one based on misinformation and lack of understanding of the past history of the state. It would bode well for the committee to ponder over the questions- how many decades in total has Mr. Rishang Keishing- the most prominent Tangkhul in the state, been the Chief Minister of the state and what were his achievements regarding development works in the hill districts of Manipur during his tenure? How many of the candidates from the NPF won the Manipur state assembly election? What was the message conveyed by that result? Which system will be more rational- allotment of constituencies according to the area covered or according to the density of population? Has the representatives of these group ever expressed concerns of inequalities or misappropriation over allocation of resources and benefits meant for their people? Before declaring their intention of handing over the decision for the course of action after the tripartite talks which is nothing but a veiled threat of inciting communal riot and mob laws, the matter should be looked at in an impartial and different perspective. Threats of resorting to violence and disruptions as a means to achieve their end will only result in regression of development in their region and alienation by the neighbouring states. The flag bearers of this non-issue should instead draw up a pragmatic plan of action to bring development and prosperity for their people if they are genuinely interested in their welfare and advancement instead of pushing the unwary people to conflicts and confrontations. Rest assured that every group, whether minority or majority, will extend their helping hand in their endeavour. One cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

Mark Sheet & Certificate lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original mark sheet and certificate for my class XII passed examination bearing Roll No. 6654 of 2014 issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur and also my mark sheet and certificate for my class X passed examination bearing Roll No. 15818 issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Sanjenthong to Nongmeibung on 2nd October, 2016. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Laimayum Pushparani Devi
D/o L. Tombapu Sharma

Pass book lost

I, the undersigned have lost my pass book of SBI Senapati Branch, bearing account no. 11587129504 on the way between Heigrumaj to Senapati on 26/09/2016. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

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National & International News

Air Force Officer, Bengaluru Scientist Arrested In International Drug Bust

Hyderabad: An Indian Air Force (IAF) officer and a Bengaluru-based scientist have been arrested after multi-state raids that have exposed an international ring dealing in drugs like Ecstasy. Around 220 kg of ready-to-use amphetamine worth Rs. 230 crore have been seized. The Air Force Wing Commander was caught in Nanded in Maharashtra yesterday, apparently

on his way to Goa from Hyderabad. Over Rs. 7 lakh cash, five mobile phones and allegedly incriminating documents were found on him. He is believed to be one of the main suppliers in the network to make and deliver amphetamines, which are potent nervous system stimulants. Posted in the Directorate of Information Technology in Delhi,

the officer had reportedly been tracked for weeks both by the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Air Force intelligence wing. More officers are under surveillance, say sources. Hyderabad, say officials, was the base where amphetamines - used in several party drugs - were manufactured at a leased factory. The drugs were allegedly

trafficked mainly to countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Sources say Venkat Rama Rao, a research scientist, and his wife were key members of the syndicate. Mr Rao and the Air Force Wing Commander had been classmates and allegedly resumed contact when the officer was posted in Bengaluru. The raids were carried out on Friday.

Cabinet approves amendment to HIV/AIDS bill

PII New Delhi, Oct 5: A draft law which seeks to protect the interests of persons with HIV and AIDS got more teeth today with government approving amendments to bring in legal accountability and establish a formal mechanism to probe complaints against those who discriminate against such people. The Union Cabinet approved amendments to 'The HIV and AIDS Bill, 2014' drafted to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. The Bill lists various grounds on which discrimination against HIV positive persons and those living with them is prohibited. These include the denial, termination, discontinuation or unfair treatment with regard to employment, educational establishments, health care services, residing or renting property, standing for public or

private office, and provision of insurance (unless based on actuarial studies). The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited, a statement issued after the Cabinet meet said. The Bill requires that "no person shall be compelled to disclose his HIV status except with his informed consent, and if required by a court order". Establishments keeping records of information of HIV positive persons shall adopt data protection measures. According to the proposal, every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household. The Bill also prohibits any

individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them. The Bill also provides for guardianship for minors. A person between the age of 12 and 18 years who has sufficient maturity in understanding and managing the

affairs of his HIV or AIDS affected family shall be competent to act as a guardian of another sibling below 18 years of age. This provision will be applicable in the matters relating to admission to educational establishments, operating bank accounts, managing property, care and treatment.

Clashes between Taliban and government forces continue in Kunduz

Kabul, Oct. 5: Afghan officials say heavy battles are ongoing between the Taliban and Afghan forces in the north for the third straight day since the insurgents attacked the city of Kunduz. General Qasim Jungalbagh, the provincial police chief, says that the Taliban launched fresh attacks on Afghan forces from the south and east early in the morning on Wednesday. He says clearance operations have

begun inside the city, while heavy clashes continue on the outskirts. Mohammad Yusof Ayubi, head of the Kunduz provincial council, says food prices have almost tripled since the attack began early on Monday. He says food, water and electricity are all in short supply. The city fell to the Taliban a year ago before they were beaten back by Afghan forces with the help of US airstrikes.

Contd. from previous issue

Library movement and development in Manipur

7. Initiatives of the Government

The initiatives of the Government towards the development of public library in Manipur came a bit late in the state with the establishment of District Library and Children Library -cum -Museum in 1958. It was followed by the establishment of Netaji Memorial Library (1968) at INA Complex, Moirang; upgradation of the District Library to the status of the State Central Library (1970); establishment of district libraries in different districts of the state such as: Ukhrul, Senapati, Tamenglong and Churachandpur (1974), Chandel (1977), one branch of the State Central Library at Ningthoukhong for Bishnupur District (1991), Thoubal (1997) and Imphal West and Imphal East (2006). The overall affairs of the public library matters in the state is under the Department of Art and Culture. For the sake of the convenience of Administration, the management of the public libraries in the hill districts of Manipur has been handed over to the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), though the same is under the Department of Art and Culture of the State.

7.1 Recent Initiatives

Of the recent initiatives of the state government towards development of public libraries can be mentioned about:
i) Establishment of Sub-divisional libraries in respect of a) Jiribam, b) Kangpokpi, c) Moreh. Construction of building for these libraries have already been completed which have started since 2012-13.
ii) Construction of new buildings in respect of district libraries of Churachandpur, Senapati and Thoubal since 2013-14.
iii) Proposal to extend the library building in respect of Chandel, Imphal East and Imphal West districts.
iv) Making Art and Culture Department a major Department under which more provisions have been incorporated for the promotion of public library services.
v) Approval to recruit library staff to man the libraries soon.
8. Efforts of the Voluntary Organisations
The role of different NGOs, Voluntary

Organisations, etc. for the cause of library movement in Manipur cannot be ignored at all. Around such 300 (three hundred) Organisations of the state are organizing libraries with or without assistance from the Government, RRRLF, and other Agencies. They are, as a basic component of the public library system, playing an important role in the movement as well as rendering services to the rural masses at local level. As on now a total of 144 such libraries are recognized as RRRLF beneficiary libraries enjoying facilities like Book, Furniture, etc.
9. Contribution of RRRLF
The Raja Rommohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata has been playing a vital role in the process of development and promotion of library movement in the state, as done in other parts of the country. A separate wing under the name of RRRLF, sponsored by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, was open at the State Central Library, Imphal since 1978. The state started its participation in various schemes of the Foundation since 1981-82 onwards. The Foundation has rendered financial assistance under its Matching and Non-matching schemes. Under these two schemes, the Foundation has provided assistance towards procurement of Books, Almiras, T.V. sets; Organization of book fairs, Orientation Training Courses, Construction of building for the libraries run by the NGOs. Etc. Besides, MALA has been organizing seminars every year under the sponsorship of RRRLF. Previously the State and RRRLF share was in the ratio of 50:50, but now the pattern has been changed to 10:90. As such the role of the Foundation towards development of public library in the state is quiet commendable. The Foundation also provides assistance to the Manipur Library Association (MALA) to organize Seminars, Conferences, Awareness programmes, etc.
10. Role of Library Associations
The need for an organization to lead the library movement in a more systematic manner in the state has been long felt. But because of want of

professionals in the field the real library movement with the support of the people could not be materialized for a long time. The 26th May, 1975 was a remarkable day in the history of the formation of Library Association in the state. On that day, the Manipur Library Association (MALA) was born with Shri M. Anandamohun Singh (then Chief Librarian of the State Central Library, Imphal), Shri R.K. Dave (then Deputy Librarian of the erstwhile Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Post Graduate Studies, presently Manipur University) and Shri Ch. Radheshyam Singh (Retired Librarian of Manipur University) as its President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. However, due to lack of professionals, support of the public, etc led to non-functional of the same. Later, after a gap of 12 years the present Manipur Library Association (MALA) came into being only on the 24th May, 1987 with Shri N. Giridhari Singh, Shri K. Chaoba Singh and Shri Th. Khomdon Singh as its founding President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. After the emergence of MALA with the support of the public, the momentum for the library movement in the state has been in increase taking a new shape. Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Awareness Programmes, Training courses, Library Day Celebrations, World Book and Copyright Day Celebrations, National Library Week Celebrations, Year of Book Celebrations, etc, organized by the Association in the last 24 years could change the mindset of the people of the state becoming them aware of the need and importance of library in the society. Besides publishing more than 20 (twenty) books so far, MALA has also been publishing a journal entitled "Librarygee Ehou" (Library Movement), which plays an important role in the library movement in the state. Another publication "MALA Newsletter" is being launched very shortly on monthly basis for free circulation among its members. Other National Level Library Associations also contributed towards the enhancement of the process of library movement in the

state. A Manipur chapter of the Indian Public Library Association (IPLA) was formed during 1996-97 with Dr. Th. Khomdon Singh and Shri N. Inaocha Singh as its President and Secretary respectively. However, the same became non-functional without much activity. Recently in June, 2007 the North East Chapter of the Ranganathan Society for Book Culture, Library and Informatics Studies (RAS), Head Quarters, Lucknow was formed in the state to carry out different activities at national level. Dr. N. Giridhari Singh, Dr. Ch. Ibohah Singh and Shri N. Inaocha Singh are its President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The Chapter in collaboration with Prof. Kaula Endowment for Library and Information Science, Tenali, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur Library Association, State Central Library, Imphal, Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Manipur, and Manipur Foundation, Imphal, successfully organized the third *National Seminar and Convention of RAS* at Imphal during 8-10 September, 2007 synchronizing with the Centenary Celebration of Indian Library Movement and 115th Birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and Eighty Years of Public Library Movement in Manipur alongwith 110th Birth anniversary of Dr. H. Atulchandra Singh. During 12th and 13th March, 2008 also RAS conducted a National Seminar on *Development and Challenges of Library and Information Services*. In the years to come, the Chapter is expecting to carry out different library programmes in the region. IASLIC has also been associating with MALA in carrying some activities in the State since last about 4 years when Dr. Th. Khomdon Singh, present Librarian, Manipur University was its Governing Body member. The joint activities are continuing today also. Presently, Dr. Ch. Ibohah Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Manipur University and General Secretary of MALA is one of the members of the IASLIC Governing Body. (To be contd.....)