

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, October 6, 2016

Of separation and survival

The prolonged social tensions and manifestations of discontents have taken various shades and hues with the course of time. What is becoming more apparent with each passing day is not the clarity for the expressed demands, but for the implications of such agitations. The increasing rigidity of the stances of the opposing parties has increased the necessity for an effective and speedy intervention. The state government however, having found itself caught in the middle as always, has started the process of implementing its tried and tested formula of dumping the whole issue with the centre, or at least making it seem like so. Meanwhile, the adamancy of the extremists in sticking to their ends of the issue has elevated the present imbroglio up another notch in complexity. But for all the wise talks and fervent campaigns, the very fact remains that political boundaries and areas are never constant, and can be changed. Separation of East Timor from Indonesian occupation and, closer home, formation of Telangana state from Andhra Pradesh drives home the point. What is also an undeniable fact is that these separations have been at huge costs to lives and properties. Choosing to ignore the fact would be living in self denial and will eventually cost us more than we can afford to lose. There still is, however, a faint ray of hope for the beleaguered people of the state. History bears witness to the fact that the people of the state have endured unimaginable sufferings and extreme torments in the hands of the neighbouring Burmese invaders. That the very reason for the survival and continued existence of the people of the state irrespective of their community, customs, language or beliefs was the cooperation, support and solace extended and exchanged during the darkest days without the consideration for caste or creed.

Are we ready to discard the very attribute which ensured the collective survival of our varied communities and cultures in the most trying of times? The history of Manipur is one which is made up of the myriad cultures and customs being practiced in various forms and regions. It would indeed be a great insult to our forefathers in whose name we are preparing to take up the cudgel, if we are to part ways for the sake of our different cultures and customs. But if ever things have to come to such a pass, the prospect of bidding loving farewell is a distant dream. For those who are hatching the plots, there is more to life than a few acres of land or a few thousands worth of freebies. Who knows, the rest of the world might even leave their countries with us for more prospective planets while we are still drawing and redrawing our claims.

Comprehensive Educational Society Register toujaragani

Comprehensive Educational Society Imphal West Kouba Society ama register toujaragani kanagumbna yetpiningba leiragadi numit humni manungda yetpiba yagani.

Sd/-
President
Comprehensive Educational Society
Imphal West

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Pan Card, Adhaar Card Voter ID Card and Driving License on the way between Langol and JNIMS on 3/10/2016.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Worchuila Keishing
Lanthungching Langol Near Shija Hospital
Ph. No. 8794909456

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 4th October, 2015

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)/Rett.: It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have applied for the following post in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the written test for direct recruitment will be held on the date, time and venue as shown below:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Date	Time	Place
1	Under Secretary	15-10-2016	11:00am	Assembly Secretariat

All the candidates are, therefore, intimated to collect their admitcards on or before on or before the date of written test scheduled above and also to appear for the same without fail.

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

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National & International News

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 successfully launched

AIR
New Delhi, Oct. 6: India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 was successfully launched early this morning by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. The European launcher Ariane-5 VA-231 blasted off at around 2 AM Indian Time and injected GSAT-18 into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit shortly after orbiting co-passenger Sky Muster II satellite for Australian operator, National Broadband Network. The launch, originally scheduled for yesterday, was deferred by 24 hours due to unfavourable weather conditions at Kourou, a French territory located in northeastern coast of South America. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman AS Kiran Kumar, who witnessed the launch from the mission control centre, said, GSAT-18 is an important satellite for India that will enable the continuity of the vital communication services in the country by replacing the currently ageing satellites. Weighing 3,404 kgs at lift-off and having a mission life of about 15 years, GSAT-18 will strengthen ISRO's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites. It carries 48 communication transponders to

provide services in Normal C-band, Upper Extended C-band and Ku-bands of the frequency spectrum. GSAT-18 is the 20th satellite from ISRO to be launched by the European space agency and the mission is the 280th for Arianespace launcher family. ISRO, which has been dependent on Ariane-5 rocket for carrying its heavier satellites, is developing GSVL Mk III for this purpose. GSAT-18's co-passenger Sky Muster II, built by Space Systems Loral in California, is aimed at bridging the digital divide, especially in the rural and isolated regions of Australia.

Militants attack army camp, 3 ultras killed

PTI
Srinagar, Oct 6: Three heavily armed militants suspected to be from Pakistan were today killed after they launched an attack on an army camp in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. A huge cache of arms and ammunition were recovered from the militants, who were also carrying medicines with Pakistani markings. An army official said that the militants opened fire on an army camp at Langate in Kupwara district at around 5 AM, which was retaliated by the jawans.

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Is the connect between Election and the poor lost ?

With the elections slated to be conducted at the very dawn of next year, the hope for any split or defection of Congress MLAs from the ruling party seems afar. Even though the possibility of such an overhaul is still there, many are of the opinion that the seasoned Ibobi might have tightened his grip not to let any of his men becoming Hemanta Bishwas Sharma of Assam. Amidst hectic electioneering in various constituencies, the Congress government is engaging in eleventh hour recruitment drive as a pre-poll gimmick. Despite realizing that such recruitments will not be finalized before the onset of election code of conduct, the aspiring candidates and their parents are now in hectic search to deposit bribes. Why the state government is now engaging its valuable time in recruitments, which it could have done during its past fifteen year tenure ?

Even though the regional forces are expected to be playing a decisive role in power sharing and formation of government, Manipur has for now no capable regional party to manage the ground. Once a prominent regional party, the Manipur People's Party, whose sway over state politics is almost dead now, will not be able to play considerable role in government formation, because the party has

negligible number of winnable candidates. Other newly formed regional parties also appear to be lacking in capacity to woo the incumbents and probable legislators. However, an upheaval in the political scenario in Manipur will be visible only after the party tickets for BJP are announced. Ticket losers from the saffron brigade will surely leave the lotus and begin upholding regional agenda. However, even though the existing regional parties field sufficient number of candidates, chances of winning seats are dim as winnable candidates will be on either the Congress or the BJP.

In the midst of highly complicated political maneuvering to grab power among the affluent and powerful politicians, majority of the poverty stricken common men are left with no options but to accept the cash notes in return to their valuable voting rights for five years period. No political party seems to contemplate on bigger state, national and international issues to woo voters for the coming general election. Confused indeed whether there is any relation between democratic elections and the poor common people in Manipur.

(The writer may be reached at nekenseram@gmail.com)

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Library movement and development in Manipur

11. Legislative Support in Library Movement

The public library movement received impetus by enactment of library legislation in different states of India. Such acts aim at ensuring perennial funding support for public libraries, defining structure of public library system in the state, powers and functions of library authorities and such other matters relating to the public libraries. As the library movement has speedily been progressed the need to have a sound legislation has also been felt for an effective public library system through movement in Manipur. Shri Y. Erabot Singh, then Education Minister of the State took initiative on behalf of MALA concerning moving of a Private Member's Resolution on the *Manipur Public Libraries Bill, 1988* (1) on the 26th July, 1988 on the floor of the House. As a member of the Business Advisory Committee of the then Assembly Dr. M.Nara Singh, MLA also tried his level best to put up the Bill in the agenda list of the House for discussion. The Bill was passed on the 1st August, 1988 by the Assembly as Manipur Bill No.14 of 1988. There were many controversies over the Bill when the same was sent to the President of India for necessary approval which was duly corrected. With due efforts of MALA, the Bill was given Assent by the then President of India, Dr. Sankar Dayal Sharma on the 9th June, 1993. The Manipur Gazette published it on the 17th June, 1993 as *The Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988* (Manipur Act No.7 of 1993). The Association also organized a Seminar on *Manipur Public Libraries Act: Rules and Regulations* on the 12th August, 1993. As an outcome and as the follow-up action of the event the State Cabinet in its meeting held on the 1st July, 1996 approved the Rules of the Act and the same was published in the Manipur Gazette (No. 267 dated the 12th September, 1996) as the *Manipur Public Libraries Rules, 1996*. MALA, as such has been very much instrumental in the state towards having a Public Libraries Act. The state thus could become the sixth state in the country after West Bengal having such an Act. The same has partially been started its implementation since 1st October, 2002 while Dr. M. Nara Singh was the Minister of Art & Culture of the State. However, implementation of the Act

in its true spirit is the need of the hour. Another aspect on the legislative support of the public library may be mentioned of the Bill passed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly concerning the taking over of the management of the Manipur Public Library (Bill No.11 of 2015 "THE MANIPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) BILL, 2015" introduced by Shri Okram Ibobi Singh, hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of the House on 3rd July and passed on 8th July, 2015. The Manipur Public Library was established in 1948 by some social workers of Manipur by constituting a Committee known as Manipur Public Library Committee with Shri N. Gopal Singh as founder Secretary. It was constructed just behind the MG Memorial Hall, Imphal, on the land given by the Manipur State Council vide its Resolution No. 27of04/02/1948. It is a public property but mismanagement of the property has been observed by the public and government as well since a long time. The library was not functioning for a longer time curtailing the opportunity of the general public to access to the library and knowledge thereby defeating the very purpose for which it was established. That is why the state government has decided to take over the management of the library in the interest of the general public and one or more officers are being appointed to look after the library to serve the public. This is a good initiative of the government of the state.

9. Role of READ India
Rural Education And Development (READ) India, as a partner of the READ Global, has been giving special attention to serve the marginalized and underserved communities who are living at periphery of resources and are not aware of the technological boom and how they can be benefitted from it. It feels that there is a need to strengthen "Public-Private-Partnership" (PPP) model. READ, with Bottom-up Approach, has set up one of the unique models to empower communities through its Community Library and Resource Centers (CLRCs), specially the women and children who are the regular visitors at READ Centers. The integral approach of bringing Education, Enterprise followed by intensive trainings at the Centers is bringing a social change in the rural communities wherever READ has its

Centers and communities are owning the programmes. READ CLRCs are playing a critical role in helping disadvantaged and marginalized communities by providing new opportunities to become better educated and economically & socially empowered. Each community is unique and hence each Center is distinctive in its response to serving the interests, needs of the local communities. The READ India has reached this land to establish such community library and resource centres. Two such centres have, so far, been established in Manipur by the READ India during 2009 - 2011. The two centres are:

- 1) Tubileima Rural Public Library and Resource Centre, Taobungkhok, Imphal West, Manipur, dedicated for the community during 2009.
- 2) Tazei Community Library and Resource Centre, Sangairou, Imphal West, Manipur, dedicated to the community during 2011.

10. Initiatives of the NSS Cell, Manipur University

A humble initiative has been launched by the NSS Cell, Manipur University since 2013 to establish NSS COMMUNITY LIBRARY. NSS is a scheme sponsored by the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the core objective of which is to make our student youth more socially sensitive by establishing a linkage between campus and community. Each Educational Institution covered under NSS has at least one NSS unit of normally 100 volunteers. Each NSS Unit adopts a Village/Slum for taking up its activities which is normally located within a radius of 8 Km. of the institute. Each NSS Volunteer is required to take part in both regular and special camping programmes organized. It is in this context that the scheme has good social implications. Creation of asset is another important dimension of the scheme. In this background, the NSS Cell, Manipur University has taken up an initiative to develop NSS Community Library in the adopted villages/slums of the different NSS units under the Cell. So far the following NSS Community Library have established by the NSS Units of different colleges affiliated to the University including one for the Cell itself:

- 1) NSS Cell, Manipur University, Canchipur (12th August, 2013)
- 2) Taloulung village, adopted village of NSS Unit of Damdei Christian

College, Taloulung, Senapati District, Manipur (7th February, 2015).

- 3) Haotak Village, adopted village of NSS Unit Kumbi Vollege, bishnupur District, Manipur (25th September, 2015).
- 4) Khurai Saroj Leikai, adopted village of Shree Three Gourgovinda Girls' College, Khurai, Imphal East, Manipur (4th October, 2015).
- 5) Chowaimi village, adopted village of Asufii Christian Institute, Pununammei, Mao, Senapati District, Manipur (10th October, 2015)

11. Conclusion

While Manipur is passing through a very critical juncture on a multiple number of issues its public library movement has also eighty four years, taking into account the establishment of Manipur Club to provide public library service by Atulchandra in 1927 as the beginning of public library movement. In spite of different efforts made in the last 84 years the present scenario of public libraries in Manipur is still depressive. But, we do also, on the other hand, expect that there will be a continuous progress and development in the near future in the area of public library to develop a new culture of peace and all round development in the state. Some yardsticks that we can suggest for the enhancement of library movement and development of library in the state may include the following:

- a) Implementation of the long pending the *Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988* without much delay has become an utmost important.
 - b) Opening of a separate Directorate of Public Libraries bifurcating it from the Department of Art and Culture of Manipur.
 - c) Revival of the extinct libraries which were established by our pioneers to give homage to them.
 - d) RRRLF and State Central Library should come forward to cover more number of voluntary organisations to establish library giving support and cooperation.
 - e) NSS Cell, Manipur University establishing a good linkage with all the NSS Units and voluntary organizations of the adopted villages should enhance its activities towards establishing more NSS Community Library in the state.
 - f) READ India also requires to extend its support towards establishment of more Community Library and Resource Centres in Manipur.
- (Concluded)