

Poetry section

Silence

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I hear you, I hear you  
You're a soft smooth shush, full of lyrical tranquility!  
Your presence is peace to all,  
You're secrecy is our quietness;  
You're speech is concealing, still I hear you;  
You know no boundaries; you avoid restrains,  
You're beauty, beauty of goddess  
You unwind charges; you undo unhappiest,  
You're easier; you blunt sorrowfulness,  
Miserable and depressions and mournfulness,  
And gloomy and sorry and pains,  
And sad and feeble and poor and heartbroken!  
You're magical serene peaceful composit!  
You edit all; worries and fearfulness, and  
Troubles and dying and egos;  
You're shadow to wholly, still you're quite utterly.

I hear you, I hear you  
You're a soft smooth shush, full of lyrical tranquility!  
Your presence is peace to all,  
You knock me in boundless and untold;  
You make me live immensely infinite, cool and  
Calm and lavishing free;  
I pay you alluring pleasant, heavenly pleasing so rich!  
I speak fathoms of my inner;  
And I expounded wonderful sublime of psyches;  
I smiles thousand and thousand soul music;  
I bounce and I leap with thy twinning;  
I perceive thy melancholia, divine beguiling;  
Still you erase woes,  
You're supreme divine magnificent euphoria;  
Still I hear yeah! All is good feeling thy about rich.

I hear you, I hear you  
You're a soft smooth shush, full of lyrical tranquility!  
Your presence is peace to all,  
You're one companion to solitary lone,  
You listen to thousands and millions loons talking and sharing;  
And still I do talk numerous isolations,  
I sit upon thy bosom loving;  
I speak billions, again and again concealing unpopularity;  
I cried on thy lap multiple untold and unseen histories;  
I asked thou too many shield questions?  
Still you're silent, undeclared and mute to too perfectly;  
You're the supreme answer to wholly unconditional emotions!  
You heal every passions, lust and hunger;  
Still I hear you unreserved.

I hear you, I hear you  
You're a soft smooth shush, full of lyrical tranquility!  
Your presence is peace to all,  
I touch thy tenderness spirit,  
And I float and I drive cheerfully,  
I sing and I dance to thy rhythmic kiss serene;  
You hold perfectly key to worldly fellow-feeling pities;  
You're clear truth, companion to some greatly,  
You long for valid closeness to all spirits,  
Still I hear you and let it be and let it go.

Bir Tikendrajit - The Hero Of Manipur

N. Pramodini Devi

In the third quarter of the 19th century, the three prominent persons who took a decisive part in Manipur's politics were Senapati Tikendrajit, Thangal General and Paona Brajabashi. They were patriots of the first order and laid down their lives to save their country from British domination.

Koireng, popularly known as Bir Tikendrajit, was one of the unforgettable nationalist figures of Manipur. He holds a unique position in India's freedom struggle. With the inborn nature of a patriot, he boldly defied the aggressive acts of the mighty British imperialist power. He was against imperialism and colonialism. In short, he was a crusader who resisted the expansion of colonialism. He fearlessly fought against the colonialists. For his patriotism Tikendrajit is immortal. He has been called the "Lion of Manipur". Even the then government of British India had likened him to a fierce tiger.

Manipur had enjoyed sovereign status until it was occupied by the British in 1891. Through a long historical process the British imperialists had established a strong foothold in Manipur. The internal crises and the seven years of its devastation (1819-1826) at the hands of Burma, caused the British to intervene in Manipur. As an ally of Prince Gambhir Singh, it tasted victory over Burma in the first Anglo-Burmese War (1824 - 1826). As a result, Manipur recovered from the devastation and Gambhir Singh was made the titular king of Manipur. The effective powers were in the hands of the Britishers. The king could not resist the British interference which was more pronounced in external matters. Their interference increased much

more during the reign of Maharaja Surchandra Singh who succeeded his father Chandrakriti. The consequence was the Anglo-Manipuri war in 1891 and the British conquest of Manipur despite a strong resistance put up by its people and the active struggle of Tikendrajit, Paona Brajabasi and others.

Being a member of the royal family, Tikendrajit was familiar with the English which enabled him to know about their attitude and innermost feelings towards the Manipur people. A prince - turned nationalist born on Saturday, the 29th December 1856, Tikendrajit was the fourth son of Maharaja Chandrakriti. Since childhood, he was a lover of freedom. On the death of the Maharaja, on 20th May 1886, Surchandra, the eldest son, succeeded to the throne of Manipur. The other princes were appointed as heir-apparent, army general and police chief. Later, on the death of Jhalakriti, Tikendrajit was appointed general of the army. But misunderstandings and tensions were created among the princes which ultimately led the royalty to split into two factions, one led by Tikendrajit and the others by Pakasana. The tension continued to rise higher and higher over the king's negligence of the situation and British interference. Tikendrajit thought that the king was unduly favouring Pakasana. He could also not tolerate the attitude of the British. Maharaja Surchandra was unaware of the way the British usurped power from the local rulers to expand their colonial empire. Tikendrajit got an idea as to their intentions and he tactfully made efforts to defend Manipur's sovereignty. He knew very well that the Britishers were eagerly awaiting

an opportunity to transform sovereign Manipur into a British colony.

Hence he and other like-minded princes-Angousan, Jilangamba and others-revolted against the monarch on 22nd September, 1890. This event is known as "Palace Revolt" in the history of Manipur. The king fled away from the palace and took asylum in the British residency. Kullachandra and Tikendrajit became the king and heir-apparent respectively. The ex-ruler left the residency for Calcutta informing Tikendrajit that he was going to Vrindavan. But on reaching Calcutta he petitioned to the Government of India for restoration of his throne in Manipur.

After fully considering the matter the then Government of British India decided that Tikendrajit must be removed from Manipur and Kullachandra be recognised as the Maharaja of Manipur. It appointed its own chief commissioner in Manipur who announced the decision.

J.W. Quinton, the chief commissioner, reached Manipur with a troop of 500 soldiers. For this purpose the royal brothers were invited to a "Durbar". But they were made to stand for long hours outside the Durbar Hall on a sunny day. In the meantime, the secret plan of arresting Tikendrajit had leaked out. The Durbar could not be held due to the absence of the Tikendrajit. On the failure of their plan, Grimwood, the then British political agent in Manipur, conveyed to the king the decision and pressured him to hand over the heir-apparent to them. Ultimately, the English decided to use force as the king declined. In the evening of March 24, 1891 the British troops attacked the Palace Compound, particularly

Tikendrajit's residence, killing many innocents including women and children who were watching a cultural programme, Ras Lila. The Manipur army succeeded in its offensive struggle. Five officers-Quinton, Grimwood, Lt. Col. Simpson, Cossins and a bugler had to take shelter in the cellar. But the feeling of revenge among the people whose children, wives and relatives had been killed, grew so high that they executed the five Britishers. This resulted in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891 and annexation of Manipur by the British.

Major Maxwell took over as the chief political agent. The trials of Kullachandra and Tikendrajit and others were held by a court constituted by the then British Indian government. Kullachandra, Tikendrajit, and Thangal General were sentenced to death. However, the sentence on Kullachandra was commuted to transportation of life following his appeal to the government. Queen Victoria made efforts to save Tikendrajit but failed. Despite her wish and strong protest of the people, he and Thangal General were hanged in an open place before the general public on August 13, 1891. A protest movement launched by women at the very moment could not save the martyrs and Manipur. The Britishers knew that a nationalist like Tikendrajit was a stumbling hurdle in their colonial designs. In his absence the transformation of Manipur into a British colony was inevitable.

The State of Manipur celebrates this day, August 13, as Patriot's Day to remember their role in the freedom struggle. Tikendrajit, indeed, was a nationalist par excellence. The people of Manipur would always cherish him as a symbol against tyranny.

(PIB Feature)

National & International News

At least 15 dead in bomb blast in Pakistan's Quetta

Quetta, Aug. 13: A bomb exploded near a crowded market in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Saturday, killing at least 15 people, officials said, the latest attack to hit the restive southwestern province of Baluchistan. Middle East-based ISIS, which has a branch of loosely affiliated fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan, claimed the attack shortly afterwards, saying a motorcycle suicide bomber had killed 17 soldiers. The powerful blast hit as a paramilitary patrol passed by on the road, Baluchistan provincial home minister Sarfraz Bugti said, adding the patrol may have been the target. "According to the information we have received so far, there are

around 15 casualties, people who were martyred, and around 40 people were wounded," Bugti said. He said a state of emergency had been imposed in the city and all hospitals were on alert. Quetta's chief of bomb disposal squad, Aslam Tareen, said initial information was that a suicide attacker rammed a motorcycle into a military vehicle. Pakistan's army press wing said the patrol was the target and there were at least seven civilians among the 15 killed. It cited army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa as saying terrorists were trying to disrupt Monday's celebrations of 70 years of independence from Britain. "Our resolve won't succumb to any

challenge," Bajwa was quoted as saying in an official tweet from a top military spokesman. Separatist terrorists in Baluchistan have waged a campaign against the central government for decades, demanding a greater share of the gas-rich province's resources. Taliban and other Islamist terrorists also operate in the province, which shares borders with Afghanistan and Iran. A US drone strike killed Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour last year in Baluchistan. The province was rocked by a series of attacks late last year that claimed over 180 lives and raised concerns about a growing terrorist presence, including fighters affiliated with ISIS, which has

claimed several bombings in Baluchistan. A judicial report released after an attack on the province's lawyers left more than 70 dead criticised security provisions in the region and called for increased clampdowns on extremists. Interviews with Baluchistan police and an internal police report viewed by Reuters described a Baluchistan-based militant network in the province's remote mountainous area of Wadh with 500-1,000 operatives led by a former military asset. However, military intelligence officials denied the Wadh network exists and the father of the alleged leader says his son is not involved with militants attacking the state.

Prez gives nod to 6 key legislations since taking over

New Delhi, Aug 13: In three weeks since he took over, President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to six key legislations, including the one that extends the jurisdiction of trial in cases of maritime claims, arrests and detentions of ships to various courts. All the legislations, which got the presidential nod, were recently passed by Parliament. The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017, which got the presidential assent recently, repeals two archaic laws — 156-year-old Admiralty Court Act, 1861, and 127-year-old Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890. A bill in this regard was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on April 24. The Lok Sabha passed the bill on March 10. The colonial era legislations came into force when the country had only three major ports — Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. So, at present also, admiralty disputes could be decided by the high courts in these cities only.

The new Act extends jurisdiction for maritime claims and vests it with the respective high courts and over the territorial waters of their respective jurisdictions. The President has also approved the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) bill, 2017. Eleven lakh teachers appointed till March 2015 under the Right to Education (RTE) Act will now get time till 2019 to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for firming up their appointments, as per the new Act. The Rajya Sabha had on August 1 passed a bill in this regard. The Lok Sabha cleared the bill in July this year. As per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, which came into effect from April 1, 2010, these teachers were to acquire minimum qualifications within five years i.e. by March 31, 2015. The President also approved the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) bill, 2017, which empowers the Centre to collect socio-economic and other statistical data from Jammu and

Kashmir. A bill to amend Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 26 even as various opposition parties had objected to it saying it was not proper in view of Article 370 which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The Lok Sabha approved the bill in April. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-private Partnership) bill, 2017, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) bill, 2017 and the Footwear Design and Development Institute bill, 2017, have also got the presidential approval. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017 grants statutory status to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and declare them as "Institutions of National Importance". There are 15 IIITs across the country. The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and

Research (Amendment) Act, 2017 gives the status of national importance to the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha). A bill to amend the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 (NITSER Act) was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 16 and by the Lok Sabha on March 28 this year. The Footwear Design and Development Institute Act, 2017, empowers the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) in Uttar Pradesh's Noida to grant degrees and diplomas. It also declares the FDDI as an institution of national importance for the promotion and development of quality and excellence in education, research and training in all disciplines relating to footwear and leather products design and development. The Footwear Design and Development Institute bill, 2017 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 24 and by the Lok Sabha on July 5.

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