

# Editorial

## For a clean future generation

People of the state call him 'Kei Hanuba' which literal meaning is 'old tiger'. He is now 98 and is surviving without loss of any consciousness when it comes to the politics of Manipur. Yes Mr. Rishang Keishang, five times Chief Minister of Manipur 1<sup>st</sup> MP of Manipur, and before departing politics he was represent the state as Rajya Sabha Member.

Naturally the life span of human being is 100 years and some with exception live more than that and there name are often in the news. For the veteran politicians who had served the state and the country as representative of the people he had done a lot for his people. His name will be engraved and enshrine in the political history of Manipur. Other than Mr. Keishang there were also some leaders who had sacrificed everything for the development of the society. Those who serve the country, states and human being will be remembered by each and everyone of us. People of the next generation will pay their respect when they are no more among us. Point that, Imphal Times wanted to submit is that human life span is only 100 years. And among these he will spend on learning at school, college and university for at least 24 years. Then his life for the people may begin after completing his or her studies. Then if he/her is a government employees his or her superannuation is 58 years now extended to 60 and for Professors in University and Medical Colleges, it is again in the process of extending their superannuation. Which means that the maximum time allotted for serving at his own capacity for a government employee 40 years (if one get the job in time). In case of MLAs it is only 5 years but depending upon his or her performance the number of years may be increased (if re-elected).

A sincere, hard work in the short 40 years by the so call government servant and those get elected during election for 5 years are the only hopes of the erstwhile Manipur Kingdom now become a part of Indian Union.

Everybody knows that wealth; money could not be carried away with us after left for heavenly abode. Some are of the concept that they need to accumulate (earn) as much money as possible using their capacity for their children. Doing so we have seen many children get spoiled with the money earned by their parent in black.

It is not wealth or money that parents need to accumulate for their children, but it should be good education, discipline and etiquette that will be the real treasure for their children.

Well some argument is that study needs lot of money these days. But if those in the government work with sincerity, with proper planning about improving the government schools, colleges and University that the future generation will neither need extra money for better studies. (As each and every one would rushed to government school instead of private run institution which need lot of money).

Human beings are not immortal, they will die one day another day and if lucky may survive for 100 years like Former Chief Minister of Manipur Mr. Rishang Keishang.

Let's hope our next generation depends on their qualifications and not with the money (black) earn by their parents.

## Name changed

My name Samandram Kumar Singh and my wife's name Samandram onghi Nganthoi devi was wrongly recorded as Samandram Ingobi Singh and Samandram Bijya devi respectively in the academic certificates and marksheets of my son Samandram Naresh Singh. It is therefore required to rectify the wrongly inserted name of mine and my wife's name as Samandram Kumar Singh and Samandram Nganthoi Devi respectively.

Sd/  
Samandram Kumar Singh  
Father of Samandram Naresh Singh  
PO&PS—Thoubal, Thoubal District.

## Correction

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that my date of birth recorded in my Passport bearing No. G6530257 has been wrongly written as 11/12/2001, which should be 03/03/1997, and also my mother's name viz. Chingakham (N) Chungkham (O) Catherine Devi or Chungkham Ch Catherine Devi has been changed to Chungkham Catherine Devi from now and onwards.

Sd/-  
Pricatson Chungkham  
S/o Chungkham Priyokumar Singh (Father)  
And Chungkham Catherine Devi (Mother)  
Thongju Part - II, Imphal East.

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## CM's referring of Meitei ST demand to ST Commission is *ultra vires*

By : Ningombam Bupenda Meitei

This writing of mine, which could also be perceived as a personal opinion, is indeed a matter of public importance. It is to present a constitutional argument on the basis of the statement made by the incumbent Chief Minister of Manipur in the ongoing Manipur Legislative Assembly's session. The statement of the Chief Minister is reported in The Sangai Express (English Edition), dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2017 (<http://www.thesangaiexpress.com/status-meiteis-can-recommended-report-misc-st-bieren-respect-elected-members-cm-bureaucrats/>). The argument is: the Chief Minister's referring of Meitei/Meetei ST demand to Manipur State Commission for ST is *ultra vires*. Therefore, the withdrawal of the statement, stated by the Chief Minister of Manipur in the State Legislative Assembly with regard to referring the matter of Meitei/Meetei for ST demand to Manipur State Commission for ST, has to take place before this session of the House ends. Manipur Cabinet under the state's Chief Minister shall recommend for the state's Governor to recommend Meitei/Meetei ST to the Government of India. In case of a need for a report to be submitted for the required facts, the Chief Minister may constitute a Committee headed by the state's Chief Secretary to look into the matter to expedite the recommendation of Meitei/Meetei for the inclusion in the ST List of India to the centre.

It is in this regard, that the Chief Minister's statement, on the floor of the House in the Legislative Assembly, on referring the issue to the Manipur State ST Commission, is constitutionally not viable. Therefore, to honour the House, the Chief Minister shall withdraw the statement from the House while the House is in session; otherwise, the statement, which cannot be prevailed upon by any executive order taken outside the House, has to go through for the next winter session, in December, to be looked into whether the statement ought or ought not to be there in view of the jurisdiction and powers of the said Commission, enshrined under the Manipur State ST Commission Act 2014, with regard to making any report on a community which is not yet enlisted in the ST (Scheduled Tribe) List of India. Therefore, in preserving the spirit of the Constitution of India, there needs to be a review or a discussion on the said statement tabled by the Chief Minister in the House with regard to the demand of Meitei/Meetei for ST. The reasons why there needs to be a discussion on the Chief Minister's statement in the House are:

(1) On National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST): On the 89th Amendment of the Constitution coming into force on 19th February 2004, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338A on the bifurcation of the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution. (Source: <http://tribal.nic.in/Content/NationalCommissionforScheduledTribesOrganisations.aspx>)

(2) On Manipur State Commission for Scheduled Tribes (MSCST): On the floor of the House in the last Manipur Legislative Assembly, the then Deputy Chief Minister & Tribal Affairs Minister stated in the House, while passing the Manipur State Commission for Scheduled Tribes Bill 2014, that: "National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has already been set up at the national level. In line with this development, the need for establishment for the State Commission for Scheduled Tribes was also growing in the State." (Source: <http://www.thesangaiexpress.com/house-okays-st-commission-bill/>)

In view of (1) & (2), it concludes that NCST is to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution, and therefore, the establishment of MSCST, on the line of NCST, shall also be to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes in Manipur under the Constitution of India. It is in this regard, that Meitei/Meetei community which is not ST, as yet, under the Constitution of India, is not sanctioned/safeguarded/constitutionally granted under the Constitution of India to refer its demands for the

inclusion in ST List of India to the said State Commission for ST. By referring the matter to the said State Commission for ST, Manipur Chief Minister, on the floor of the House, has dishonoured the Constitution of India - which empowers the Act on only ST's safeguards - and therefore, knowingly (if so, then it leads to misleading the House) or unknowingly (if so, then officials reporting to the Chief Minister need to be corrected) has also misled the House. It is at this point, there arises a need to withdraw the statement stated in the House to preserve and protect the ethos and sanctity of the Constitution of India. And, the withdrawal of the statement has to take place before this session of the House ends, otherwise either the whole state has to wait for a Special session or the next session in the winter to discuss/ debate on or withdraw the statement.

The very act of the Chief Minister's referring the matter on a community which is not ST to the State Commission for ST is beyond the Act established to form the said Commission. Neither the Chief Minister has an authority to refer the matter to the said Commission nor the said Commission is empowered under its Act, as per the Constitution of India, to even make any assessment on whether Meitei/Meetei is to be recommended for ST or not. Hence, the act and the aforementioned statement stated by the Chief Minister on the floor of the House stands *ultra vires*.

## National and International News

### Fishermen released by Sri Lanka arrive in Tamil Nadu

**Nagapattinam (TN), Aug 4:** Seventy-seven Tamil Nadu fishermen, arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy in separate incidents this year on charges of poaching, arrived at the Karaikal port near here early today after their release by the island nation. Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar, Handlooms Minister O S Manian

and family members and relatives of the fishermen were among those who received them at the port, official sources said. The fishermen belonged to Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts. The Sri Lankan Government had on July 28 agreed to release the fishermen.

The Sri Lankan Navy handed over the fishermen to Indian authorities near the International Maritime Boundary Line yesterday. Escorted by the Indian Coast Guard, the fishermen reached the Karaikal port early today, the sources said. On March 8, Sri Lanka and India had agreed to release fishermen held in each other's custody after a high-

level discussion between the two sides in Colombo in a bid to defuse the tension following the killing of a 22-year-old fisherman belonging to Rameswaram allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fisherman, Bridgo, was shot dead on March 6 while he was fishing in a mechanised boat at a short distance off Katchatheevu islet.

### Hizbul militant gunned down in encounter in Anantnag

**Srinagar, Aug 4:** A newly recruited local militant of Hizbul Mujahideen was gunned down in an overnight encounter with security forces that also resulted in the death of an unidentified person in the ensuing crossfire in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, security officials said on Friday. The encounter broke late Thursday night at Kanibal in Bijbehara of Anantnag district, 55 kms from here, when the police along with Army and CRPF cordoned off a

village following an intelligence input about the presence of militants, they said. During the encounter, which lasted for two hours, one militant identified as Yawar, hailing from Anantnag, was killed while two other militants managed to escape under the cover of darkness, they said, adding that an Army jawan also sustained bullet injury but was stated to be stable. Yawar, who was allegedly a "chronic stone pelt" of the area,

had joined the militant outfit in the first week of last month, they said, adding that a Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) looted earlier from a police guard was recovered from him. During the encounter, one motorcycle-borne individual, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was found dead with bullet injuries, the officials said, expressing apprehension that he might have died in the crossfire. The number plate of the vehicle was damaged and no identity card

of the deceased was found. Two mobile phones were recovered from the deceased who was in multi-layered clothing. The telephone contacts in his handset could not immediately help to confirm his identified. The local police have released his picture for identification. According to the officials, the body of Yawar was handed over to his family for burial and restrictions were imposed in the town as a preventive measure.

### NIA raids houses of suspected Islamic State sympathisers in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

**Kochi, Aug. 4:** The Islamic State (IS) module busted from Kanakamala in Kerala's Kannur district in 2016 was found to still be active after the National Investigating Agency (NIA) found several persons linked to the module following the IS ideology using online media. In the latest development, the NIA has intercepted three youth - two from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and one from Alappuzha in Kerala - who were closely in touch with the IS module and the 23-member group who left for Afghanistan mid 2016. The NIA team from Kochi interrogated Abdul Rahman of Ukkadam and S Abdullah of Karumbukadai at the Coimbatore Police Commissioner's office on Thursday. Basil Shihab, 25, a native of Kidangamparambu in Alappuzha, was interrogated at the Alappuzha SP's office.

While Basil Shihab works at a computer shop, Abdul Rahman completed his MCA and is unemployed and Abdullah is running an internet cafe at Ukkadam, Coimbatore. The trio appeared before the NIA in Kochi after notices were served for further interrogation. These persons were also part of the group formed by Shajeer Mangalassery alias Abu Ayisha who was reportedly killed in Afghanistan. They were members of Whatsapp and Telegram groups through which Shajeer coordinated activities. However, they operated online using fake names and continue with IS activities even after the bust in October last year, said an NIA officer. One of the suspects from Coimbatore maintained contact with Abdul Rashid who with 23 Keralities left for Afghanistan last

year. NIA in its raid carried out the residences of these persons on Friday recovered around 80 Compact Discs, three mobile phones, and laptops. The majority of CDs were of recordings of the speeches made by controversial religious leader Zakir Naik. "These persons were following the

IS ideology for more than one year," the officer said. NIA after the detailed interrogation will decide on recording the arrest of the accused. One of the suspects has openly admitted that he is following the ideology of IS. If more evidence is received, we would record the arrest, the officer said.

### Rahul Gandhi visits flood-hit Jalore

**Jaipur, Aug 4:** Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi today visited flood-hit areas in Jalore district of Rajasthan. Gandhi reached Sanchor in Jalore by helicopter and toured the flood-hit areas by road. Normal life in Jalore, Pali and Sirohi districts has been badly affected due to heavy downpour. Jalore is the worst-hit district where more than 12,000 people have been

relocated to safer areas. Several shelter camps have been set up by the district administration and other social organisations in Jalore and Barmer where food and water are being supplied. The Congress leader is accompanied by PCC president Sachin Pilot, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot and other leaders and party workers. He is also scheduled to visit Barmer.