

# Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday June 13, 2017

## Reposing the trust

A good deed should be appreciated, and despite naysayers expressing their reservations on the expressed intentions and the ability to implement its promises by the present Biren-led state government, there can be no denying the fact that the slew of developmental works being executed since the change of guard barely three months ago is impressive and is unlike any the state have witnessed in quite a few years. A studied and planned pattern of implementing policies and program on priorities based on the need of the general public is clearly evident, and it must also be said that the absence of inordinate delays or inexplicable goof-ups in implementation of various progressive efforts which have become an accepted and expected norm rather than the exception is still viewed by some as a political gimmick.

Catering to the needs or addressing the concerns of every single individual in the state is an impossible task and no sensible person should expect from anybody with any form of authority over the society be it legal or otherwise. However, getting to know the real concerns and issues of the common public is a vital step towards making efforts to finding a solution for the greater good. 'Meeyamgi Numit' was conceived for the very purpose and it is upto the public to make efforts to raise their concerns or genuine issues instead of criticizing such radical steps towards removing the age-old barrier that has been preventing the elected representatives from getting a feel of the real concerns and issues being faced by the general public. Mechanisms to prevent corruption in public and government domain has already been put into place, and it would be a shame for the public if we could not muster enough courage to try out the claims of the government before airing our opinions and views belittling the efforts of the government on social media.

Time will ultimately prove the mettle of the present government who have taken upon itself to right the wrongs and expressed intent to steer the state towards the path to inclusive progress and transparent and clean governance. There is still much to do before the state government can present any significant achievement on its part. It must also refrain from falling into the trap of developing the dubious habit of tom-tomming its own works like its predecessor. Just as wise men learn from the mistakes of others, so should the present state government analyse and identify areas to be prioritised so that focus can be made for sustainable, inclusive and well-rounded progress while continuing with the developmental projects and efforts that are still viable which were initiated by the previous government. The onus of mobilizing the collective support and assistance for the development of the state is on the state government. The public is warming up to the challenges and potentials of participating in the process of nation-building. It would be a tragedy for the future of the state if the renewed enthusiasm is made to go waste.

## Manipur: The Boiling Bowl of Ethnicity

By: Dr. Aaron Lungleng

The Land of Jewel or Switzerland of India has now become the epicenter of ethnic conflict apparent to tremor any time suspected of erupting ethnic inferno. The boiling bowl lies in the North-Eastern region of Indian Sub-continent, between 23.5°N-25.3°N Latitude and 93.4°E-95.3°E Longitudes. The total area of Manipur is 22,327 sq. Km. Out of which only 2,238 sq.km is valley while, the remaining areas are covered by Hills. The people of Manipur State are distinctly grouped into three main ethnic communities. Meiteis (inclusive of the Meitei Bamon and the Meitei Pangans). Whereas, the hills are inhabited predominantly by the tribal dividing into two main ethnic-dominations namely, Nagas in the north, east and west whereas Chin-Kuki-Mizos in the South. It will be worthy to study the sensitivities among the ambiguous ethnic anthology within one administrative entity.

**The Nagas**  
William Watson (1961), basically for much of history, South East Asian earliest settlers were Paleolithic or pre-Paleolithic food gatherers, hunters, fishers and folk who had made the transition to stone-using culture. A Hindu epic tells the presence of the Mongoloids in India as early as 2500-2000 BC. Archaeological excavations found, such as stone and bone tools, as well as animal remains as evidence of Stone Age habitation in the four caves of Khangkhui Caves located near Khangkhui, some 11 kilometers (6.8 mi) southeast of Ukhrul District on the border with Upper Burma (Sharma, T.C. Pandey S.N. Ed. 1985). The first evidence of Pleistocene man in the northeast India dates back to about 30,000 BC. Other notable caves nearby include Hunding Caves, 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) south of Ukhrul (Ukhrul district), Purl Cave in Purl (Senapati District) and the Song Ring rock shelter in the Beyang village in Tengnoupal in Chandel district (O.K. Singh, 1984). One of

archaeologist most valuable findings is a pebble chopping tool discovered in the Marang Naga village, Machi, in the Chandel district. The Marings Nagas are one of the oldest tribes of Manipur and this finds are considered as a landmark in the Paleolithic archaeology of Manipur, as it confirmed, the area was inhabited by Neolithic people from the early Stone Age or lower Paleolithic period.

New Stone Age findings in the Tharon Caves in Tamenglong district provide the first concrete evidence of Hoabinhian culture in India, a Mesolithic Southeast Asian cultural pattern based on historic finds from the village of Hoabinhian in North Vietnam. Similar relics have been found in Thailand at the Spirit Caves as well as in Burma and other places in Southeast Asia. Tharon is a Liangmei Naga village where the five caves and rock shelters were first explored in December 1979 by the State Archaeology Department. Tharon's edge-ground pebble tools are similar to finds from Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines where they were used about 7000-8000 BC. Possible dates for the Neolithic age in northeast India are between 500 BC-2000 BC. It is probable that the sites are already inhabited by Neolithic men in or around 2000 BC.

Although the presence of Mongoloid groups in the Northeast region had been detected as early as 10 B.C. the Nagas had maintained little outside contact till the latter part of the 13th century. The existence of Naga was mentioned by Ptolemy, the great Greek Philosopher of the 2nd century A.D., in about 150 A.D, who heard of this people during his visit to Western and Southern India as a wild people with a characteristic flat nose of the Mongol race. These Mongoloid groups in Asia took different reasons and routes to enter the present habitat. Some were due to pressure of population and some due to ecological and environmental hazards and for some, due to socio-

political issues (Shinni, 1988). "One of the factor of their migration within Asia was the expansion of the Chinese Han people pushing southwards as population grew in the valley of the Yellow River (Gerald, 1972). They filled up sub-tropical and tropical China and the pressure of population triggered the momentum which sets off ripples of migration which affected the whole of Asia (Sardesai, 1981). These immigrants' tribe took different routes. Some took the Himalayan section which extends down through the Patkai, Arakan Yoma, and Banda Arch towards Sumatra and Java, and some took the Pacific section extend from Formosa through the Philippines, Borneo and on to Japan. Smith, 1925, Hodson, 1911, Hutton, 1921, Vissie, 2008 argued that perhaps the Nagas were among those tribes who migrated from China and settled on the way in the Naga Hills. The sinologist Derk Bodde posits in *The Cambridge History of China* stated that "for every man whom Meng Tian could put to work at the scene of actual construction of the Great Wall of China, dozens must have been needed to build approaching roads and to transport supplies" (Bodde 1978, p. 63). This was supported by the Han dynasty statesman ZhuFu Yan's description of Qin Shi Huang's Ordos project in 128 BC. "When the populace had become, tired and weary, they started to disperse and escape. The orphans, the frail, the widowed and the seniors were desperately trying to escape from their appallingly derelict state and wandered away from their home (Yap 2009, p. 159). As of Marshall (1960), on the basis of information received from Dr. Berthold Laufer, "the early home of the peoples of Eastern Asia was in the upper reaches of the Hwang-ho or Yellow river in China and from this center, the Tibetans moved westward; the early tribes of Indo-China Southward, and the Chinese, South-East. Accepting this view of Marshall, the Nagas can be said to

have followed the early tribes of Indo-China group. "The Nagas are a blend of early aboriginal populations referred to as Mongoloid peoples that migrated from China 12,000 years ago," (Frans Welman, 2007). By discerning into the Naga legends, tales, stories and folk songs which were verbally passed on to the succeeding generations, we locate the Nagas origin in the giant Asian Civilization.

From the early period, Chinese civilization maturely developed. Elizabeth Seeger, in "The Pageant of Chinese History", New York, 1934, writes "when the Pyramids were being built in the valley of the Nile, China too was building up her early kingdom along the Hwang-Ho, and when Babylonian wise men were studying the stars making the sky, Chinese were making a calendar and foretelling the eclipses." Similarly, the Nagas believe to lead by reading human events through cosmological phenomena. They believed that if the corona of the sun is circled by a ring, it signifies the death of a chief or nobles. On the day of AZ. Phizo rainbow over Khonoma was said to witness, again prior to Issac Chishi Swu a circle on the corona was manifest and on his death, a rainbow over his native village was testified. Such were the two major events Nagas seen during their decade of resistance movement when their greatest national leaders' die.

Nagas are a speaker of both Sino-Tibeto and Tibeto- Burmese language. Names such as 'Hung' wung' /Tatar etc, and other names like, 'Hungshi' /Yang' among the Tangkhul Naga traced their history to Hwang-Ho River or China. Human sacrifices when chiefs died drawn parallel practices among the Chinese and Nagas are some of the instances. The Chinese and Nagas share a common belief that the spirit of a person could work actively; these are the few illustrations of the common belief of the Sino-Nagas from the very ancient times.

(to be continued.)

### Admit Card & Mark Sheet lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Admit Card and Mark Sheet issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur of the year 2012, bearing Roll No. 26561 (Registration No. 1001773044 on the way between Ghari to Kwakheithel.

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**Rajkumari Thagoisana Devi**  
Yaikul Hiruhunba Leikai, Imphal West.

### National and International News

#### BJP flags off Modi Fest in Nagaland

**NENA Dimapur, June 12:** With Assam PWD Minister Parimol scheduled to visit Nagaland as part of the BJP's promotional Modi Fest on June 14, the Nagaland state unit BJP has embarked on a promotional tour endorsing the event.

On June 12, BJP Nagaland unit president Visasolie Lhoungu flagged off a mobile promotional van, which will exhibit the Central government's various developmental and welfare schemes for the information of the general public.

Lhoungu addressing the media today during the flag off at the Tourist Lodge stated that the

'informative van' will be visiting different parts of Dimapur in the lead up to the visit of the Assam Minister on June 14.

"The Modi promotional van would exhibit the government programmes through the electronic medium as well as through print material as the initial preparatory measures for the main event (on June 14)," said Lhoungu.

While highlighting the major welfare programmes implemented in Nagaland by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, Lhoungu appealed to the public to partake in the Modi Fest to get acquainted with the workings of the schemes and the processes involved in

availing them.

The Fest, marking the completion of three years of the Modi government, was launched nationwide on May 26 coinciding with the inauguration of the Saraihath Bridge over the Brahmaputra, the longest bridge in the country.

In Nagaland, the programme began on June 10 and will cover all the 11 district headquarters. From June 10-15, tendisist headquarters will be covered. In Dimapur, Lhoungu said, it will be held in two components from June 12-16. The main event to be organised at the Town Hall on June 14 will be graced by Assam PWD Minister, Parimol. The June 14 programme will witness exhibitions and interactive sessions with the public.

#### 28 injured in blast at explosives godown in Sangrur district

**AIR Punjab, June 13:** Monday late in the evening, 28 persons were injured in a blast at an explosives' godown located on Neeli road at Sunam in Sangrur district. Civil Surgeon, Sangrur Dr Kiran Bali informed that total 28 injured were brought to the hospital. The 14 people sustaining minor injuries were discharged after treatment. The condition of four persons is said to be critical. Seriously injured are under treatment at Rajendra hospital, Patiala.

The intensity of blast was so high that the entire building of the godown was destroyed. Deputy Commissioner Amarpartap Singh Virk and Senior Superintendent of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu rushed to the spot and supervised the rescue operation. JCB machines were pressed into service to extricate those trapped under the debris. The timely action helped save many lives. District Authorities informed that the owner of the godown had valid licence issued by competent authorities. The cause of the blast is not yet clear.

#### JKLF chief Yasin Malik detained

**Srinagar, June 13:** Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Mohammad Yasin Malik was today detained in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Malik, along with Noor Muhammad Kalwal, JKLF zonal president, was detained by the security forces at Reban in Shopian today morning, a police official said.

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**Diana Khumukcham**  
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