

Editorial

Of clean environment

Plastic bags are a ubiquitous contamination of our landscape, urban and rural.

The campaign launched by students' body DESAM against the use of Plastic polythene bag in the state needs supports from not only the people of the state but also from the government too.

Much has been promised to keep the Imphal clean and some of the officers in the state government are trying all it can to make the city clean. Off late Imphalites saw the IMC engaging large number of workers to clean the city. The kind of initiative is also worth appreciation, not because it will keep the city clean but also this initiative provides jobs to many people particularly those people who have been looking for jobs of any kind.

But then when it comes for keeping the city clean or ban of the use of plastic polythene bag, it is always the government first that should be in the forefront to materialize the kind of initiative. However, a mere promise or announcement without converting those in action will certainly lead the good works of the students' body or some sincere employees in the government department into under frustration.

This is being brought up as the people sees no sustainable measures on the side of the government on either for ban of plastic use or for dumping site of the garbage collected from the urban area.

Yesterday this newspaper has highlight on how the Lamphelat, the site where the Chief Minister of Manipur had promise to protect as wet land area to keep the environment clean, has been converted into a dumping site of garbage collected from the Imphal city.

Cores and crores of rupees has been spent at Lamdeng in establishing the solid waste management plant at Landeng and last year the government had already announced that it is working. When the Landeng solid waste management plant is working it is surprising to see why the garbage are being dump at Lamphelat area and that too by exposing in open air. The way that the IMC dump the garbage at Lamphelat shows that something is wrong in the multi crore worth Solid Waste Management plant at Lamdeng in Imphal West.

The garbage being dump at Lamphelat will have serious environmental effect. We all know that Environmental pollutants have various adverse health effects from early life some of the most important harmful effects are perinatal disorders, infant mortality, respiratory disorders, allergy, malignancies, cardiovascular disorders, increase in stress oxidative, endothelial dysfunction, mental disorders, and various other harmful effects.

The government, particularly the MAHUD department should clarify on why the garbage from the Imphal are being dump at Lamphelat instead of taking it to Lamdeng Solid waste management plant.

The threat to Balkanize Manipur

By: Heigrujam Nabashyam

Rich or poor, intelligent or foolish, handsome/beautiful or ugly a man or a woman remains a tribal or a Dalit even if he or she lives in a metropolis, if he or she happens to be born by a tribal or a Dalit father — a mother, in case of a matriarchal society.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution of India, educated in America and England and happened to be the most brilliant brain of the country and probably one of the best brains in the world of his time remained a Dalit, despite his assuming a Deshasha Brahmin surname/family name 'Ambedkar', because he was born in a Dalit family in the then Bombay state, now in Madhya Pradesh. This is what a tribal or a Dalit is. It is by birth. The child of a top national leader or of a top bureaucrat shall remain a tribal or a Dalit. You cannot question it.

The point of argument of ATSUM in the ST debate, I am afraid, have again come back to where it had started — the land grabbing theory by the 'advanced Meitei' tribe from the 'backward hill' tribe; Meetei 'hidden agenda' to grab 90% of jobs in the state; 'advanced Meitei' exploiting 'HAOS'; Meiteis are not tribal because they have script and civilization since the time of Jesus Christ, etc.

I believe ATSUM have been carried away by pent-up emotions and hatred. This is exceedingly unfortunate because in such a state of mind there can be no sensible dialogues, debates or discussions.

However let me state that the issues or the points raised by ATSUM on November 6, 2017 have already been addressed in our earlier discourses and ATSUM I believe would not have been that forgetful. Anyway at the risk of repetition let me summarize the points that have already been made.

(i) When the hill tribe prefer to live in the valley, how do you foresee

that the valley tribe would come up the hills and grab the lands to live. If someone tries to grab your lands, my suggestion is, put him in the jail.

(ii) Things you own cannot be taken away by the 'advanced Meetei' either by force or by law.

(iii) The 'Meitei govt.' too, cannot take away the lands own by hill tribe. Forget land, the govt. cannot even implement the rules of law without the consent of our hill brothers. The latest incident being the Churachandpur incident where 9 precious lives were lost — a leaflet in Paite played on the Churachandpur public's fear of losing their homes and properties and etc. and the rest is history.

(iv) The fear of ATSUM that Meitei would gobble up all the major share of jobs, etc. of the state can be taken care of precisely by enacting appropriate laws or by continuing the present roster system of reservation, etc. STDCM has already expressed their position in this regard.

(v) After Manipur became part of India, the government of India had listed the 'LOI' — the untouchable Meitei, in the SC list and the remaining Meitei in the general list assuming that the Meitei — as the Indian government authority was influenced by the Meitei Hindu Gurus, belonged the Kshetriya caste of Hindu Mythology without going into the facts. However later on, finding the position of the Meitei dismal, the govt. of India on their initiative put the Meitei again in OBC category to redeem their past wrongs.

(vi) Now, what STDCM is doing is, asking the govt. of India to rectify the wrong that was thoughtlessly committed by it in 1951.

At this moment of time your expression of support for ILP with your 'hidden agenda' rider is interesting. But we would be too naïve to expect that the Government of India would agree to any more

bills to restrict the movement of Indians in its eastern gateway to the ASEAN. Even assuming that ILP is agreed to by Government of India in the end, it will become a zero sum exercise because it will be inundated and buried under the absolute pressure from the massive number of travellers that anybody can envision coming by road, by train and by air, in a few years' time. Anyway everybody is free to take it in their own ways.

And today Meiteis are not valid Kshetriyas; but back to their roots, they are 'Chinky, Momo', etc. Their donning of Aryan name 'Singh' do not help them, but they are the north-east people — Arunachali, Meitei, Naga, Zomi, etc.

While in Poona in early 1980s my friend Morandi, a tribal from Bihar, now Jharkhand took me as a Mizo, because he could not distinguish me from his Mizo friends in Spicer, like we can't distinguish a UPite, a Bihari, a Rajasthani, a MPite, etc.

Today the Tripuris have been marginalized in their own homeland by immigrants from the East Pakistan, present Bangladesh. The Tripuris had their long history of civilization like the Meiteis. Likewise, Naga had their village republics like the Greek city state since time immemorial, so also the Chin-Kuki.

In Meitei Mythology our hill brothers are our elder brothers — "Chingna Mayambani, Tamna Manaoni". Like in any family, one brother may become more advance than the others. But that does not mean that the advanced brother cease to be a member of the family. Even among the Naga groups some groups are more advanced than others; and any Chin-Kuki family knows who the more advanced family than others are; so, what is this argument of ATSUM of 'advanced tribe and non-advanced tribe'?

The truth is, the present trend shows that the Chin-Kuki are more

advance than the Meitei and the Naga in academics, social mobility and economic activities.

In social aspects the Chin-kuki and the Naga are more forward and progressive than the Meitei. Once a Tangkhul lady told me in quite a jolly way, 'Nakhho Meiteisi Karigino Mapaanda Thengnabada Kanasu Tinnaningde, Mayangsu Tinnade Nakhho-Khakta, you move in flocks' — when I met Meiteis in other cities and towns, you seem to be a closed group, you do not mix with the mainland Indians; and you always move in flocks, why? She was telling me her own experience.

The fact is, till today the Meiteis are not at ease with other communities. In any Meitei ceremony or function — marriage, birth, death or any Meitei religious function, Meetei do not mix with other community; maybe because they are isolated emotionally and hence socially from other communities. However it is quite commendable that Chin-Kuki and Naga are more or less cosmopolitan.

We are young tribal societies shifting from our tribal age to the modern age. You are given all the opportunities to develop and progress. Therefore, instead of threatening to Balkanize Manipur, why can't we ponder why we are lagging behind. We say, our economy is in the hands of the business community — Marwaris, Punjabis, etc. But what do we do? We keep on attacking and grappling each other among ourselves and have wasted tremendous amount of our valuable time and energy — what the national media used to call as inter-tribal rivalry.

This must be stopped; what we need today is to work hard to feed ourselves and stand on our own. Most importantly, this would leave a legacy of work culture for our children. Threat or no threat, this is the only way.

Document Lost

I have lost my Marksheet, Admit Card and Certificate of class X examination 1990 conducted by BOSEM; P.U (Science) 1992 and TDC Science (Royal) 1997 (Registration number 4583) conducted by Manipur University on the way between my home to Keishamthong on July 23, 2017. So, any person who have find/found the said above document are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Chungkham Budhamani
S/O Ch. Inao
Yumnam Huidrom Mayai Leikai, Imphal West

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, **Shanglakpam Banti Sharma** (New name) previously called **Shanglakpam Banti** (old name) doing football player and resident of Pishum Oinam Leikai, Imphal West District, manipur, India Solemnly declare that, I Wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of Shanglakpam Banti and in place thereof, I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Shanglakpam Banti Sharma.

Sd/-
Shanglakpam Banti Sharma

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National and International News

Mary Kom predicts gold haul in 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Championship

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Newly crowned Asian Boxing champion Mary Kom feels that India will begin a new chapter with the upcoming 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Championship in Guwahati by winning multiple medals. She is delighted with the way the young guns have been preparing and declared that they have the quality and the talent to make a killing on the world stage. "The youth boxers are very good, highly intelligent. They need to take that attitude into the ring," Mary said. "They are very talented but equally important to be in good tournament," the five-time world champion added. Mary, who is the Brand Ambassador of the championship, vowed to be the guiding light for the young girls while also sharing her experience and giving them tips on how to tackle tricky bouts. She revealed that she interacted with the Indian contingent during the training camp in Delhi and came out highly impressed.



India re-elected member of UNESCO's executive board

New Delhi, Nov 9: India has been re-elected as the member of the UNESCO's executive board, its top decision-making body. The election was held at the 39th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Paris last night. The General Conference consists of the representatives of the States Members of the organisation. It meets every two years, and is attended by Member States and Associate Members, together with observers for non-Member States, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Each country has one vote, irrespective of its size or the extent of its contribution to the budget. The General Conference determines the policies and the main lines of work of the organisation.

Wanted

Imphal Times is looking for 2 trainee reporters with writing skill in Manipuri and English. Those interested for the post can apply to the office of the Imphal Times during office hour. Application should be enclosed with biodata and should be at least a Graduate at any stream. Preference will be given to Mass Com. Students. Manager

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, **Shanglakpam Mema Devi** (new name) previously called **Shanglakpam Ongbi Mema Devi** (old name) doing house wife and resident of Pishum Oinam Leikai, Imphal West District, Manipur, India Solemnly declare that, I Wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of **Shanglakpam Ongbi Mema Devi** and in place thereof, I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname **Shanglakpam Mema Devi**.

Sd/-
Shanglakpam Mema Devi