

Editorial

Awaited expectation

A subtle yet consistent change is sweeping across the public domain in the state of late.

The State Government making a bold and decisive stand on the issue of disintegration of the State to appease a group of people apparently devised by the centre to wash its hands off the illogical issue is a case in point.

The people of the state, so far has been bearing with the indifference and inaction of the Government, and it still has a long way to go in doing away with the tag of a passive and unwilling entity in the scheme of things. But things needed to get started somewhere and hopefully this positive attitude of decisive governance is not a one-off incident but a jolt to total consciousness and a miraculous awakening of the inner strength suspiciously lacking thus far in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities by its various departments.

A fresh and objective view of things still needed attending to without any consideration for caste, creed, religion or more importantly personal relations or favours could be a great starting point. Ad-hoc measures and experimental governance has so far been the order of the day. It is now time to draw up a concerted and lasting roadmap taking into consideration the varied needs and demands of the public, keeping in mind the feasibility and practicality of such an action.

An understanding yet resolute Government is what the general public has been clamouring for, as a decisive and proactive approach coupled with a high level of transparency in governance will eradicate most of the trivial matters that has been made into mountains due to Government inactiveness.

The identity of the State and its welfare supersedes everything else and as long as the different groups and communities that contribute to the vibrant and diverse character of the State are allowed to co-exist in peace with their rights and privileges duly delivered, then only can there be lasting harmony and progress. Inclusive growth- concerted development of all sections and regions should be the aim. When the Government has taken the initiative and concrete steps towards enduring development in earnest, then will the warmongers and disruptive elements in the society began to stand out like sore thumbs to be remedied as they should necessarily be, regardless of the virtuous and discriminated façade they operate behind. It is for the Government to set the ball rolling and bring in the much needed change so eagerly awaited with a glimmer of hope, sparked by the recent bold steps and stands taken.

The people of the state has been led astray for too by too many forces- only for want of a far-sighted visionary and leader. Is the long wait coming to an end?

Driving Licence lost

My driving licence (LMV) issued by District Transport Office, Thoubal, Government of Manipur, was lost on 10/10/2017 in between Wangjing Bazar and Thoubal Bazar. If anybody found it, the same may please be returned to me.

Sd/-
Yendrebam Shantikumar Singh
S/o (L) Y. Gourahari Singh
Kakching Ningthou Leikai (LIC Pareng)
PS Kakching
DOB: 08/08/1984

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More State News

Development in hill areas is top priority: CM CM performs Leisaa Latpa (Bhoomi Puja) for Barak and Makru Bridge

Imphal, Oct. 13: Chief Minister said that the first and foremost priority of the new government is to bring development in the hill areas of the State and without the progress in the hill districts, there would be no inclusive development in the State. This was stated by him yesterday at the Leisaa Latpa (Bhoomi Puja) for the construction of Barak and Makru Bridge on the NH-37 held near Barak Bridge, Tamenglong. On the occasion, Chief Minister said that the construction of the Barak and Makru Bridge will definitely improve the flow of traffic in the Imphal-Jiri Road. Apart from the construction of Barak and Makru Bridge, the government would be preparing a Detailed Project Report within 6 months for the construction of Irang Bridge, he added. He said that he would be visiting Tamenglong district on 24th October of this month and would be announcing some developmental programmes for the district. During his visit to the district, he said that he would announce a 35crore water supply scheme to provide potable water supply to the people of the district. Mentioning the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's initiative of 'Saab ka Saath Saab ka Vikas', he stated that the objective of the new

government is to render human service for the welfare of the people of the State. He further said that new medical insurance schemes to provide better healthcare to the poor and BPL families of the State would be announced soon. The scheme would provide free medical treatment to BPL/poor families. Under this scheme, the beneficiaries will be entitled to medical treatment coverage up to Rs. 2 lakhs per family per year. Chief Minister said that the State Government is planning to launch a special scheme for differently-abled persons of the State. Under the new scheme, skilled differently-abled persons would be given soft loans to help start their own business, he said while adding that the scheme would also have a provision to provide monthly pension to fully disabled persons. The said scheme would be implemented from 3rd December, 2017 on the occasion of 'International Day of People with Disability'. Seeking the love and support of the people, Chief Minister said that without the support of the people and government, the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) would not be able to complete the project under the stipulated time. He

mentioned that the government has kept its door open 24x7 and everyone is invited for to knock the door so that the issues/grievances of the people could be solved as soon as possible. He further said that the purpose of the today's visit was not just for Bhoomi Pujah of the two bridges but also to observe how the people of the living in hill areas of the State. The NHIDCL has committed to complete the construction of these bridges by December, 2017. The government would try its best to improve the living conditions of the people of such areas, he added. He showed his discontent on why no such steps were taken for the construction of RCC Bridge of Barak and Makru for such a long time by previous governments. During his maiden visit to Barak, Tamenglong, large number of people warmly welcomed and felicitated Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh, Council of Ministers and MLAs at various places such as Tupul, Noney, Khongshang, Nungba, Rengpang, Kambiron etc. Chief Minister also inspected the construction and progress of Jiri-Tupul-Imphal Railway line at Noney. He also inspected and reviewed the progress of the world's tallest girder rail bridge located at

Noney. Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director of NHIDCL, Shri Ajay Ahluwalia informed that He said that the total estimated cost for the construction of Barak and Makru Bridge is 110 crores. He further said that NHIDCL act as an instrument for infrastructure development to improve road connectivity and efficiency of the international trade corridor to enable efficient and safe transport. The company is working for the road construction of 1500km in Manipur, he added. In the first phase, the company would be engaging in the repair and restoring of various roads of the State. The Barak and Makru Bridge would be having a 154 meter span and 122 meter span respectively on the Jiribam-Barak Road (NH-37) and will be constructed by Bharatia Infra Project Limited. Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Y. Joykumar Singh, Minister for Agriculture Shri V. Hangkhalian, Minister for Forest Shri Th. Shyamkumar, Minister for PHED Shri Losii Dikho, Minister for YAS Shri Letpao Haokip, MP (Rajya Sabha) Shri K. Bhabananda Singh, MLAs and top civil and police officials attended the function.

Contd. from page 1

... KYKL, KCP and NLFT calls total shut down...

"Assumption of Indian leaders as not understanding the necessity of ratifying the agreement concluded between the two states for its consummation would constitute our infantile understanding of India. But it was not that they did it for nothing; they purposefully did so thinking what they did then as the only rational choice left to co-opt the sovereign independent state of Manipur into the newly born fascist India, though it seemed to be a bit infantile. The statement said that what the India did was nothing but making things invisible whichever they considered obstacle to their elephantine venture of constructing India, where the mainland will imprison the periphery, particularly the people of WESEA. "What is more, the Manipur merger agreement through which India has been riding roughshod over us for more than 6 decades had never been subject to a plebiscite under the supervision of a neutral party like the United Nation, which has been a universally democratic norms to ascertain whether the people in a particular territory want to remain independent or join another country. So we stand against the merger of Manipur with the dominion of India as no plebiscite was held seeking what the people in whose body lies the real sovereign authority have in their mind", the statement signed by the three leaders said. Regarding Tripura the statement said that the regent queen Kanchan Prava was taken for a ride by the newly born fascist India to sign the Tripura Merger Agreement in the name of protecting her state on September 9, 1949 to come into effect from October 15, 1949, the same day on which Manipur's administration was handed over to India. "This tragic historical episode of Tripura, an ancient princely state ruled by as many as 184 sovereign kings, began with the death of its last ruling King, Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman resulting in putting his 13 years old minor son, Kirit Bikram, on the throne with his wife as regent queen. At that turbulent period of

time she had to face a great number of crises from within and without", it said. The statement also said that The independent-minded people of Tripura stood against the merger. Tens of thousands Borok people took to the street protesting the perfidious agreement, raising their voice that spoke the Borok spirit of independence and justice. Unfortunately the fascist minded Indian leaders who still smell slave, masquerading as democrats, suppressed the voice of the people sending many Borok leaders to prison. A close observation will tell one that all the issues confronting Tripura in the postmerger period, beginning from politics, identity crisis, the unchecked influx of Bengali migrants, economy, arts and culture and even social mores, revolve around the contested agreement. "Therefore, there is a need to understand the existential challenges we are facing now by latching onto the agreement that had landed us in extreme troubles like national death through tools like population assimilation, cultural Indianization and militarization. Relegating the significance of understanding these plethora of issues through the prism of the merger agreement to mere sentimentality and emotional outburst, it would be nothing less than endorsing the Indian system of colonialism to maintain their hegemonic status quo. Understanding the truth that the two independent states of Manipur and Tripura were annexed into India through a treaty without binding characters when viewed from different aspects, we have to stand up as a single entity to break the chains of slavery and throw off the shackles which India put us on. It is worth remembering that these princely states were not even annexed to British India, but the merger agreements they were forced to sign had pushed both of them to the lowest status of Part C state within India disrespecting their sovereign political status they enjoyed before being merged with India", the statement added.

Letter to the editor

"A rebuttal to Imprudence of ATSUM"

Sir,
Apropos "A rebuttal to Imprudence of ATSUM" appeared in the media yesterday, and I presume — issued by ATSUM, I am to say that I made two points to which ATSUM takes strong exception. Now what I have said was, one, that the Meiteis are no less tribal than any of the tribals listed in the schedule tribe lists of the fifth schedule of the Indian constitution from anthropological angle. Two, that it is absurd to say that if the Meeteis are included in the schedule tribe list of the constitution it would "bring more inequality in the state in all respects" I have stated that the demand of the Schedule Tribe Demand Committee Manipur (STDCM) to include the Meiteis in the Schedule Tribe lists of the Constitution is to protect the Meetei from the threat of extinction in the face of unchecked influx of migrants into this beautiful Manipur valley of seven hundred square miles, which is the home to all sections of the Manipuri society — Kuki, Meitei, Naga, Pangal and the rest of the people. I have raised the question to the Government of India writing to the Prime Minister while enclosing a copy of my letter to which ATSUM take strong exception. I have drawn the attention of the Honourable Prime Minister as to what has the Government of India done to rectify the wrongs done to the Meeteis by the Indian Constitution. I have said that the unscheduled Meitei tribes should be given its rightful place in this great country of 1.3 billion plus people where their existence is not threatened. I have also pointed out that the rationale for the demand to enlist the Meeteis in the fifth schedule of the Indian constitution is genuine and the state government too, must do its part without delay. In my writing I have not criticized any community or any group of people or any organization including ATSUM. So why should ATSUM have any grudge against my statement. Yes, ATSUM might have been offended when I call their statement — "it (ATSUM) will fight to the end against the inclusion of the Meiteis in ST list" — stupid. But frankly, tell me how should I call your statement — hatred, communal venom, a war cry against the Meiteis — you choose. My dear ATSUM friends you may be smart but you are students; you are not an army to fight a battle. Do not allow yourself to be carried away by sentiment and hatred because that will take you nowhere. Even if you are hostile to the Meitei heaping all the blames for all the ills on the Meeteis — Meitei Manipur history, Meetei government, Meitei hegemony, Meitei exploiting the hill people — these are uninformed, unknowledgeable and ill-conceived world view. True, in every community there are unprincipled and ignoble people who by their sheer position in power do more disservice than anything. But you cannot curse a community for those obnoxious and unscrupulous crooks. Lastly as an elder, I would like to appeal to you to be civil in your approach in this regard because it involves the future of your fraternal community, even when your own future is safe and secured. I believe we can talk; have meaningful dialogues, debates and discussions. This is the way the world moves forward. With regards yours sincerely, Heikrujam Nabashyam Singjamei