

Editorial

Increased privilege for increased responsibility

Local Area Development Fund of the Members of the Legislative Assembly for developmental activities within their constituencies has already been increased. And this is a good sign for legislators to take up developmental works in their constituencies.

However, we have seen many times, these funds being allocated to the MLAs are apparently underutilized or, as most people suspects, being misappropriated. Recently MLA of Khurai Assembly constituency Suchindro, had announced to punish those misappropriated the local area development fund. The very stand of the MLA showed that something murky has been following in the utilisation of the local area development fund.

The recent trend of entrusting these development funds to the Ward Development Committees being set up in each constituency needs to be looked into first to ensure proper and timely utilization of the same before more funds are pumped in from the already stressed state funds. A mechanism with adequate executive powers to impose proper disbursement needs to be put in place. The present scenario in the state- the issues of misappropriation and underutilization of state funds being faced in almost every Government development projects paints a bleak picture in the minds of the general public and these needs to be cleared.

The only way to achieve is to present a more transparent system of working. Social audits being carried out for the PMGSY and other such central funded schemes can be followed. Also, various social organizations and groups are siphoning off various materials and benefits meant for distribution and benefits of the people in each constituency.

This needs to be checked, instead they should make sure of the proper and timely utilization. This could help in the proper functioning of the system thus ensuring speedy development throughout the State. The proposal which will be discussed in the forthcoming Assembly Session is most likely to be approved without any opposition. Participation of local bodies, clubs and organizations in formulation of projects and decisions to identify works to be taken up according to the priorities of people of the constituencies should be encouraged. Despite the various development projects taken up by the Central and State Government, it has been seen that much remains to be completed.

A proactive representative of the people with a knack for sensing the grievances of the people, with the resources to work towards address them is the need of the day. With the increased financial perks and allowances most likely to be approved soon, these expectations of the people should not be much of a problem and should be an impetus to take up various social development activities for which they have been elected in the first place. Accountability of public funds should be maintained. Most importantly, entrusting these development works to those persons capable of delivering results and not to their near and dear ones can only increase the credibility of these Representatives winning the trust and affection of the public bringing in a good system of governance.

Bank pass book lost

I, the undersigned have lost my State Bank of India (SBI) pass book, account no. 20141751195 issued by the SBI, Manipur University Campus, Imphal, on the way between Kakwa to Canchipur on October 8, 2017. Finders are requested to kindly hand over the items to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Wairokpan Diana Devi
(L) W. Imocha Singh
Singjamei Chinga Makha Sorokhaibam Leikai

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Problem of 1949 Annexation of Manipur

By: Prof. Naorem Sanajaoba
(Translated by Aheibam Koireng Singh)

In these recent few years, the intelligentsias have started giving their attention, and discussing on the issue that Manipur had forcibly been merged in the year 1949. In addition to it, there has been uninterrupted public curfew on 15 October every year since 1991. According to the official press release issued by the state, Manipur had been merged to India with the willingness of the masses. However, according to the newspapers which reflect the voice of the people, bandh had been organized with the overwhelming participation of the masses. Hindustan Times, a leading national English newspaper, dated 19 April 1993 had on its featured news item titled, "Tact needed to assuage anger in Manipur" stated - "And according to report, it (bandh) was such a success that not a single soul stirred out of the houses." It further added, "The immediate Post-Independence euphoria soon gave way to widespread resentment over the Merger issue." Because of all these reasons, the question surrounding the merger of Manipur remains an inevitable and crucial issue of the land.

On this very issue, three very

important and significant questions emerge very clearly. They are:

First Question: What is the political status before Manipur became an integral part of India on 15 October 1949?

Second Question : Whether the integration or merger of Manipur to India is right or wrong as per the existing norms and standards of International Law?

Third Question: After the merger of Manipur to India, whether there doesn't have any scope for Manipur of regaining its pre-merger political status?

Keeping these three questions in imperative and prime consideration, other corresponding and collaborative issue also emerges. To cite an example-

How far, the stand taken by the Government of India that, the issue of Manipur falls within the sovereignty of India, any individuals or country have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, is true?

Let me give my understanding in brief on this very big historical and people's question from the perspective of Manipur nation.

Parameters used in this discussion are briefly mentioned because solution, responses, and stances are taken depending on the

appropriateness, and rightness and wrongness of the parameter. Let the first pick be from the wrong stance. It is not possible to unearth the truth if the history of Manipur is perceived from the viewpoint/ perspective of British imperialism and inter alia legacy. Why? Because, if the parameter and yardstick set by imperialism are used, possibility of having a perspective that transcends beyond imperialism is very remote and almost ruled out. The case of merger of Manipur should be viewed and perceived from the base that the state of Manipur has historically evolved (continuity of state).

Since 1,100 AD (Sic. 429 AD, Bogeshwar), both the residents of hills and plains has been cohesively under the political constitution in early in early state (Manipur) except for some brief spell of trying and testing difficult times.

Writings of L. Oppenheim Max Sorensen J.G. Starke, James Crawford, Lauterpacht, G.I. Tunkin and other UN documents, *Transfer of Power Vol. I-XII* edited by Nicholas Mansergh, E. W. R Lumby, *Accession of States* by V.P. Menon, *The Great Divide: Britain, India, Pakistan* by H.V. Hodson, Philips and Doreen (ed)'s *The Partition of India*, Nehru's

Discovery of India, Lapierre's *Freedom at Midnight*, Durga Das' *From Curzon to Nehru*, Philip Ziegler's *Mounbatan* are referred and taken into account of such authoritative and well known sources while discussing the issues of Manipur in the light of ending international law and paramountcy. In addition to it, Maulana Azad's *India wins Freedom*, D.R. Manekar's *Accession to Extinction*, H.M. Seervai's *Partition of India: Legend and Reality*, Wavell's *The Viceroy's Journal*, Bipan Chandra, etal (ed)'s *India's Struggle for Independence*, Stanley Wopert's *Jinnah of Pakistan*; and from the perspective of Manipur, British Reports, N Sanajaoba (ed)'s *Manipur: Past and Present (Vol. I-III)*, Manipur University publications of contemporary times have been source materials. Let me discuss the issue of Manipur in entirety using the historical documents and various analytical tools. Inevitably, some foreign vocabularies and nomenclatures will be used as it is so as to avoid the controversy surrounding and arising out of the people.

(to be continued)
(This article is being reproduced again in the interest of our readers who had missed it)

North East News

State transport bus strike in Maharashtra hits people heading home for Diwali hard

HI Maharashtra, Oct. 17: Lakhs of passengers in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra, hoping to get home for Diwali, are struggling to reach their destinations as all Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) buses went off the roads at midnight on Tuesday. MSRTC employees, including bus drivers, have gone on an indefinite strike as their demands for salary revision as per the Seventh Pay Commission have not been met. Though the stir began at midnight, bus departures from Parel, Mumbai Central and other depots in the city stopped a couple of hours earlier, forcing passengers who had bookings to scramble for alternatives at the last minute. The

Dadar-Pune Shivneri service, which runs at 15- to 30-minute intervals, was also hit. The MSRTC is the largest public transport body in the country, with 18,000 buses and 1.02 lakh employees. Every day, MSRTC buses ferry around 60 lakh passengers on intra-city and inter-city routes. It also operates bus routes in Vasai-Virar, Nalasopara, Nashik and others cities in the state. After Ganapati, MSRTC buses see the maximum rush during Diwali. The transport body had already hiked its fares by 10% temporarily from October 15. The Maharashtra State ST Kamgar Sanghatana (MSSKS), the recognised labour union in the MSRTC, said they have the backing of six other labour unions and would

not back down after negotiations with the state government failed. State transport minister Diwakar Raote had appealed to them not to go on strike. The Maharashtra government has allowed private vehicles, including trucks, buses, school buses and other vehicles, to ferry passengers. The state issued this notification after its negotiations with the MSRTC union failed. Sandeep Shinde, leader of the MSSKS, said the government has offered them a 10% salary hike, which means that members, whose basic pay is Rs 7,000, will get only a Rs 600-700 raise. "We want Seventh Pay Commission salaries for MSRTC employees. Our salary was on par with state government employees before 1995, but now, a

majority of the MSRTC employees get only Rs 8,000 to Rs 9,000 per month as salary, which is very low," he said.

BSF officer attacked by cattle smugglers in Tripura; critical

PTI Agartala, Oct 17: Suspected cattle smugglers attacked a BSF commanding officer along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura in the early hours today. The second-in-command rank officer, Deepak K Mondal, commanding the 145th battalion of the border guarding force is critical and has been air evacuated to Kolkata, a senior official said. The incident happened at about 2 am near the Belardepa border post at the border when the officer was allegedly hit by a four-wheeler being used by the smugglers. He was patrolling the area with his team to check cattle smuggling and other illegal activities, he said. "The officer has received serious head injuries and he is critical," try said.

An accompanying Border Security Force jawan fired five rounds from his AK rifle to control the situation, he said and added the area has been cordoned off.

BSF arrests Pakistani intruder along IB in Jammu

PTI Jammu, Oct 17: A 22-year-old Pakistani man was today arrested from along the International Border in Suchetgarh sector of R S Pura here soon after he crossed over to this side of the fence, a BSF officer said. During questioning, the man, identified as Ali Raja, said that he was a tailor at Pasroor in Pakistan's Sialkot, the officer said, adding

Pakistani currency notes were recovered from him. Border Security Force (BSF) troops noticed that a man was trying to sneak into this side in the early hours under the cover of darkness and subsequently arrested him near the border fence, he said. Last month, scuttling a major infiltration bid, BSF troops unearthed a 14-feet-long tunnel across the IB in nearby Arnia sector

which was being dug from the Pakistani side. The unfinished tunnel, approximately three-feet high and two-and-a-half feet wide, on the slopes of the bank of Dhamalla nulla (stream) was detected on September 30. A US-made compass, 60 rounds of ammunition, a hand grenade and other items, most of which carrying Pakistan markings were seized from the tunnel.

More State News

DG Assam Rifles calls on Manipur CM

IT News Imphal, Oct 17: Lieutenant General Shokin Chauhan, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, Director General Assam Rifles, arrived in the state on a two day visit to IGAR (South) from 16 to 17 Oct 2017. The senior Army General is the head of Assam Rifles and is responsible for the Assam Rifle personnel throughout North East. The DGAR accompanied by the head of Assam Rifles in Manipur - General Virendra Singh, VSM, IG AR(South) called on the honorable Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh. General Chauhan conveyed his warm greetings & good wishes



to the people of Manipur on upcoming occasion of Diwali and Ningol Chakkouba. During the meeting lasting around 30 minutes, the General Officer discussed the security and law & order situation in the state with the Chief Minister

and assured him of full cooperation by Assam Rifles to the state administration. He also congratulated the CM and the state for contributing 8 players to the Indian side in the ongoing U-17 Football World Cup.

Driving License lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the driving license bearing Registration No. MN 0420100001232, on the way between Imphal to Sekmajing on 25/9/2017. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
MD. AMEER SAYEED
S/O. MD. ABDUL HAKIM
SAYEED
Sekmajing Khunou Makha
Leikai
Ph. No. 7422842535