

Editorial

Looking beyond the tough words

Fear leads to war; peace begins with trust. Much has been discussed, dissected and written about the way things are being handled by the state Government regarding various issues that has been proving to be more of an impediment to the growth and progress of the state. While it would not be too far from the truth to state that the state Government is indeed putting up efforts to usher in peace and progress, yet it seems, going by the varied issues and undesirable social developments and unrest, that for every step forward, the society is forced back two steps.

Just when the people in the state is starting to enjoy almost uninterrupted power supply for perhaps the first time ever, comes the ever present problem of panic buying, resulting in the stockists and suppliers in the state taking undue advantage of the unfortunate consumers and making a killing in profits. The most prominently visible example, and one which has been much talked and written about is the petrol pumps or filling stations operating in the state. It must be said for them that their sense of timing is uncanny, so much so that people have started predicting the law and order situation judging from their uncanny ability to stay abreast of any development, especially the unwanted ones. One then cannot help but wonder the plans by the CAF & PD Minister of ensuring continuous supply of transport fuel to the public - a welcome and necessary decision which was even put into practice, albeit for a very brief period.

The reason for irregularities of such a novel step, however, is best known to the state Government itself. One another important issue which was lost amongst the rising din of social unrest is that of clean water supply. Without going further into the sorry state of affairs regarding the water supply and its management, or rather mismanagement, suffice to state that the rapidly increasing presence of private water supply carriers in the state bears testimony to the efficiency or otherwise of the water supply department in the state. That the people in the state have taken these glaring lacunae for granted perhaps speaks of the level of disillusionment and loss of belief placed by the public on the government. The progress for other aspects of developments which tends to have an impact on the society does not fare much better.

Education, especially in Government run institutions, for instance, continues to flounder after a brief spell of positive promise despite what was billed as radical changes that would bring the desired changes, in short, instituting Model Schools for initiating changes, have proved to be a no show (May be the present Govt. don't think it as a good action initiated by the earlier govt). While a few may put down the rapidly increasing unrest and agitations of the public on various issues to irrational restlessness or impatience, yet the hard fact remains that there is a very real and rapid decline in the socio-economic progress and governance with a correspondingly widening rift between the Government and the public.

While it would be evidently unfair to put the blame for everything squarely on the state Government, it would augur well for those in power to trace and weed out any and all non-performing entities from its system.

After all, trust needs to be earned, not a mere announcement or in other word "an appeasement policy".

Problem of 1949 Annexation of Manipur

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

In between two world wars (Inter-war period, 1919-1945), the political status of the states was very dynamic and characterised by fluidity. Its stature and level changes and doesn't have a definable static character. To categorise the political status would be next to impossible. The state system that existed before the First World War does not match with the present times as the former was colonial times. A long historical past of imperialism and colonialism has made the matter more complicated and obscured. British paramountcy is neither colony, it infringes upon the independence of the states under monarchy, terminology which is not recognised by the international law. Because of it, the unfeasibility and impracticality of appropriately categorising the states' status of sovereign and semi-sovereign occurred during the time of paramountcy.

Political status of states during the inter war period (1914-1945) and varied in the comity of nations. Categories altered

The political status of Manipur starting from pre-1947 to the year 1972 has been give above in the form of a chart. Firstly, the political status of Manipur in the pre-1947 was not included in the purview of colonialism. This has been treated as true by various colonial sources, Manipuri sources, and other independent sources. Philips Ziegler in his work, "Moubatten: The Official Biography (1985)" writes, "As the boundaries of British India has gradually extended in the first half of the nineteenth century, an increasing number of princely states had entered into treaty arrangements with the new power, under which they accepted the presence of a British residents in their capitals and a degree of subordination to the Raj, but were not absorbed into the colonial bloc". James Crawford, while mentioning about the princely state stated that the native states in the Indian subcontinent are included in the purview of neither the protectorate state nor the colonial protectorate.

Table No. 1 Transformation of Manipur State

Period	Status of State	Order
Pre 1947*	International Protectorate	1
26 July 1947	Autonomous State (Constitution adopted)	2
11 August 1947	Associate state (sovereign within Indian Constitution)	3
15 August 1947	Sovereign state	4
18 October, 1948	Sovereign People's Republic (Assembly functions)	5
15 October 1949	Annexed state (Continuous state with suspended sovereignty)	6
January 21, 1972	Constituent state of India (Susp. Sovereignty)	7

Their status is same as international protectorate. I, myself, have earlier dwelt sufficiently enough on the issues of Manipur during those days of paramountcy. When the paramountcy came to an end, the state can exercise the option of joining either of the two dominions or remaining independent under particular political arrangement. Congress had persistently tried hard and made all possible efforts to substitute and replace the British paramountcy but the British have firmly taken the stance that it was beyond their jurisdiction.

The issue that needs to be clarified at the first instant is the interpretation of the native state by the British did not match and synchronise with interpretation of the British. From the viewpoint of the Congress leadership, states of Moghul, Maratha, and Sikh were very often found to be mentioned as native states. Manipur was never a part of it. Manipur in its historical past and contemporary times also was not mentioned in the "Blood relation" state of Sardar Patel. It is viewed from the perspective of the Congress' native state. Manipur belongs to the same category of separate state like Burma, Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Congress has falsely deemed the Indian subcontinent as a continuous state.

Manipur had its own political constitution in the year 1947. By virtue of it, despite being under international protectorate, Manipur became an autonomous state. Since the said constitution was given neither by the British nor by the Congress, the Manipur constitution stands unique and independent outside their political authority. VP

Menon himself writes that the status of the Manipur state was outside the purview of British India. And in August 1947 also, it was a part of neither India nor Pakistan.

On 11 August, 1947, Manipur after signing the Standstill and Accession Act which accordingly had agreed to hand over the three subjects to the (soon to be realised) Indian confederation remained as Associate State. Granville Austin, while describing the status of the states writes, "Somewhat later (Sic. after the Cabinet Mission) most of them (states) become loosely attached to the union government in a relationship more closely resembling confederation than federalism- although several threatened to remain independent". In the case of independence of the associate state, there has been widespread agreement.

James Crawford writes, "even if foreign affairs, defence and other subjects are handed over to another state, associate state remained independent as it happened to Western Samoa. He further mentioned that associate state can cease to be so basing on the principle of self-determination exercised through the free and genuine expression of the will of the people. In the case of Manipur becoming a case of associate state, the free and genuine expression of the people were bypassed. And also Manipur cannot cease to be associate state, as no visible initiative is forthcoming from the metropolitan state (India) which would pave way for solutions of issues as Metropolitan state is day by day becoming more and more imperialist.

eeeping this aside, even after accession, the state doesn't lose

its independence. It has been very categorically mentioned in the Clause 7 & 8 of Accession Treaty. Clause 7 of the Instrument of Accession states:

"Nothing in this instrument shall be deemed to commit me (Manipur King) in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with government of India under any such future constitution".

Clause 8 states: "Nothing in this instrument affects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this state, or save as provided by or under this instrument, the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as ruler of this state". On 15 August 1947, the political status of was elevated with Manipur becoming a sovereign status. Manipur in actuality became a sovereign peoples' republic when its assembly with its members elected through adult franchise had its session on 18 October 1948. When an independent Manipur became a part of India, there was a harsh change in the political status of Manipur. India annexed Manipur. The said annexation had been denounced and opposed altogether by the duly elected government of that contemporary time, hills and valley brethren, different parties, leftist movement. Today, it is being continued by organisations spearheading the liberation movement through resistance. During that time, only a fragment of Congressman pleaded for merger of Manipur.

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

National & International News

Medicine specialist to conduct next media OPD

IT News
Guwahati, Oct. 18: Acclaimed medicine specialist Dr Brajendra Lahkar will conduct the next weekly evening OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club on 21 October 2017. The practicing doctor from the State's well-known healthcare institution Dispur Hospital will be available for free consultations to the participants from 4 to 6 pm at the press club premises. The last Saturday camp, organized under the

'Evening with a Doctor' program for the benefit of press club members along with their dependants, was graced by Dr Siben Dutta and Dr Santos Reddy from the city based Down Town Hospital. Launched in August 2016 with initial supports from Dr Jayanta Bardoloi, managing director of Dispur Hospital in raising a doctor's chamber at the press club premises, the series of camps have emerged as a 'healthy & rewarding hangout' for the media persons.

Many working journalists with high blood pressure & sugar were diagnosed in the camps and they were advised for follow up actions accordingly. Till date, practicing physicians from Apollo Chennai Hospital, SIMS Hospital Chennai, Manjpal Bangalore Hospital, Fortis Hospital Bangalore, Medanta the Medicity Hospital, GNRC Hospitals, Hayat Hospital, Ayursundra Hospital, Nemcare Hospital, Sun Valley Hospital, Sight First Eye-

Clinic, Barthakur Clinic, Wintrobe Hospital etc have attended the camps. Even though the camps are primarily organised for the benefit of press club members with their close relatives, any journalist of the region (also the country) with their family members may take the advantage of the clinics, said a statement from the pioneer press club of northeast India adding that similar initiatives are also encouraged in other parts of the region.

Blast kills 7 police, 22 civilians in Pakistan's Quetta

AP
Karachi, Oct. 18: A bomb targeted a police truck in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta today killing at least seven policemen and injuring 22 others, police said. According to initial reports, security sources claimed a roadside bomb exploded just as the police vehicle carrying 35 police personnel passed the Sariab Mill area on the Quetta- Sibbi Road, Dawn News reported. However, the nature of the blast has yet to be ascertained. Civil Hospital Quetta Spokesperson Wasim Baig confirmed seven casualties and said that injured had been brought to the medical facility where emergency has been imposed, the report said. Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti while condemning the attack confirmed the deaths in the attack. While 22 others were injured and

are being treated at the hospital in Quetta. "The war against terrorism is not over. Balochistan is on the forefront of this fight and we will not stop until there is not a single terrorist left in the area," the home minister said. "These cowardly attacks will not hinder our security forces in executing their duties," he added.

Security forces have reached the location and cordoned off the area, and a security sweep is underway, it said. Balochistan has experienced incidents of violence and targeted killings for over a decade. In recent months, the province has faced a number of security challenges, with security personnel in the province often being targeted in roadside

explosions and suicide attacks. Fifteen people, including eight soldiers, were killed when a suicide bomber targeted a military truck near the Pishin bus stop in Quetta on August 13. Earlier in June, 14 people - including seven policemen - lost their lives in a suicide blast that shook Shuhada Chowk in Quetta's Gulistan Road area.

Pak man arrested by BSF repatriated

PTI
Jammu, Oct 18: A 22-year-old Pakistani man, who was arrested by the Border Security Force along the International Border here, has been repatriated after it was found that he had inadvertently crossed the border, a senior official said today. Ali Raja, a tailor from Pasroor

village of Sialkot, was arrested from Suchetgarh sector in R S Pura area by an alert BSF personnel in the wee hours yesterday when he noticed a person trying to sneak from across the border under the cover of darkness. "After questioning, it was found that he had inadvertently crossed

the border and a contact was established on hotline with Pakistani counterparts and he was handed over to them last evening itself," the BSF official said. He said the intruder was under the influence of drugs when he was arrested near the fence and some Pakistani currency notes were recovered from him.

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