

## Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce Manipur Chapter launched in Imphal



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With the aim of promoting all the schemes available in the State government and government of India for the economic empowerment of the youths, Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce Manipur Chapter was launched at MSME-DI Conference Hall, Takyel Industrial Estate, Imphal yesterday. The launching ceremony was organized by National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., and Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Development Institute. As a part of the function an awareness programme on NSIC and MSMEs Schemes in Manipur for SC/ST hub was also done. Chairman of MIDC Manipur P Loken Singh talked on the topic

"the urgent needs of Micro and Small Enterprise development by the SC/ST youths". Deputy Manager of NSIC Ltd., Imphal L. Ibbombi on the topic "role of NSIC for the development of SC/ST youths through SC/ST hub scheme". Director i/c of MSME-DI Imphal Tali Longchar on the topic "role of MSME-DI for the development of SC/ST youths and its various schemes. President of All Manipuri Scheduled Caste Welfare Association N. Biren, Working president forum of SC/ST Legislators and Parliamentarians Inder Iqbal Singh Atal, MLA of Henglep AC TT Haokip, MLA of Thanlon AC Vungzain Valte and Director i/c of MSME-DI Imphal Tali Longchar attended the function as chief guest, president and Guest of Honour respectively.

# Letter to His Excellency, the President of India in connection with MU impasse by MIYC

### Greetings to His Excellency, the President of India!

His Excellency, the President of India might have been well aware of the 134 days old ongoing Manipur University Disaster regarding the removal of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey from the Vice-Chancellorship of Manipur University on the ground of his administrative and financial irregularities that have totally jeopardised the functioning of the Manipur University in every direction. Never in the history of independent India had such a thing happened where an academic institute of highest learning stands completely deadlocked for 85 days (almost three months; 30 May 2018 – 22 August 2018) by virtue of the incapacity, misconduct and violation of statutory provisions by an incompetent and irresponsible Vice-Chancellor and the subsequent and continuing military siege of the Manipur University from the intervening night of Thursday, 20 September 2018 and Friday, 21 September 2018 in the aftermath of the arbitrary directives from one Mr. Vijay Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government of India inciting one Prof. K. Yugindro Singh (under suspension vide MU Office Order No. MU/3-159/85/85/FY dated the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018) to hold the charge of Vice Chancellor,

Manipur University. The whole of Manipur University Fraternity - the Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU), the Manipur University Teachers' Association (MUTA) and the Manipur University Staff Association (MUSA) have stood together for the ouster of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey from the Vice-Chancellorship of Manipur University for his dictatorial regime in running the Manipur University by bringing down the sanctity of a university at its lowest form. Amongst the several charges levelled against Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, the most crucial ones include the non-functioning of the important statutory bodies comprising the Executive Council, the Academic Council and the University Court in clear violation of the norms and precedents; and the payment of Rs. 2,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh) to Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Manipur. Normally resumed in the academic atmosphere of the Manipur University after signing the landmark Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Manipur University Community and the Joint Secretary of the Union Ministry of Human Resource, Government of India on 16 August 2018 in the presence

of the Commissioner (Higher & Technical Education), Manipur and the Chief Minister of Manipur and his Council of Ministers. The University reopened from the 23 August 2018 with examination results declared and processes for admission to MA/MSC Courses being initiated. Fresh crisis has flared up again at Manipur University since 1 September 2018 after Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey (on leave till the completion of the enquiry, corroborated by the MU Office Order No. MU/VC/02 dated the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018) declared his resumption of work in a self-issued order as the Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University and single-handedly banning teachers and staff associations of the Manipur University in total disrespect of the MOA and the Enquiry Committee instituted. The wilful actions of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey in issuing repeated unwarranted orders appointing different posts in the Manipur University amidst pending enquiry against him has again pulled down the university into turmoil. The Manipur University has triggered into an undeclared war zone with the deployment of a large number of security forces including central paramilitary forces apart from the state police forces after the 20-21 September 2018 midnight military onslaught of the university campus. The arrest and subsequent detention of several students and teachers has ravaged the sanctity of the academic atmosphere of the university into an abrupt halt and chaos. The military siege of the Manipur University and excessive atrocities meted out to the students and the teachers shall ever remain written in black letters in the annals of the history of Indian democracy in general and the oppressed history of Manipur in particular. It would not be unjust to say that the act of continued putting of Manipur University till writing this letter under military siege is an act of State Terrorism.

We are writing to bring some key issues regarding the Manipur University impasse to the notice of His Excellency, the President of India, the largest democracy in the world and bring forth a viable solution to save the Manipur University from possible extinction. Nullifying every competent order issued regarding giving leave to Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey and the terms of the leave, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on 16 August 2018 placed the leave of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey on extension till the completion of the enquiry of the "Two Men Independent Enquiry Committee" and the follow-up action taken on the enquiry report by the competent authority. As such, Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey's unwarranted order dated the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 regarding the appointment of one Prof. K. Yugindro Singh, Department of Physics as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor without the approval of the Executive Council, Manipur University is null and void since Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey has been on official leave *vis-a-vis* pending enquiry against him and does not have any legal authority to appoint someone as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The Section 4

common to both the "Statutes of the University" under the Manipur University Act 2005 and the "Statutes of the University" under the Central Universities Act 2009 clearly states that: "The Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor. Provided that where the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor is not accepted by the Executive Council, the matter shall be referred to the Visitor who may either appoint the person recommended by the Vice-Chancellor or ask the Vice-Chancellor to recommend another person to the Executive Council. Provided further that the Executive Council may, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, appoint a Professor to discharge the duties of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor in addition to his own duties as a Professor." As no Executive Council Meeting was held after the last meeting of 28 February 2018 regarding the appointment of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, the position of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University shall be deemed still lying vacant and hence the appointment of a Pro-VC by Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey (on leave and then suspended by an MHRD Order on 17 September 2018); the arbitrary directives, dated the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 from one Mr. Vijay Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India and Prof. Shyamkesho Singh (under suspension since 7 September 2018) notification (Office Order dated the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018) regarding assigning Prof. K. Yugindro Singh as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor as well as the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Manipur University have no legal validity rather than an act of the violation of the Manipur University Act 2005 and the Central Universities Act 2009 and the complete violation of the MOA signed on 16 August 2018. Both Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey and Prof. Shyamkesho Singh may be entitled for relieving Statute of Limitations. The present deadlock/total shutdown and military siege of the Manipur University has resulted from the unexpected and unceremonious entry of Prof. K. Yugindro Singh into the tension-filled Manipur University Campus on 20 September 2018 in their attempt to assume charges of Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University and Registrar (i/c) respectively and subsequent filing of an FIR against the students (admission by Prof. K. Yugindro Singh in his meeting with Her Excellency the Governor of Manipur on 21 September 2018, validated by the Letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 addressed to Prof. K. Yugindro Singh, VC i/c, MU from Shri. Th. Chittaranjan Singh, OSD/Secretary to the Governor of Manipur). The Manipur University has once again come to a complete shutdown after the military siege of 20-21 September 2018 with the students boycotting semester examinations and locking of different faculties. The scuffle between the students and the security

forces continues till today. In fact, Prof. W. Viswanath Singh and Prof. Sougajam Dorendrajit should continue as the VC in-charge and as the Registrar in-charge in strict adherence to all the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement. The Manipur University Debacle made a U-turn when Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey filed a petition at the High Court of Manipur on 5 September 2018 challenging the MOA signed between the Manipur University Community, the State Government and the Union Ministry of Human Resource. The 17 September 2018 hearing of the Writ petition filed by Prof. Adya Prasad was deferred as the High Court of Manipur was told about the filing of an SLP before the Supreme Court of India by Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, who could not produce relevant documents before the High Court of Manipur. The filing of the SLP by Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey at the Supreme Court of India before any judgement is made by the High Court of Manipur regarding his plea is in complete violation of the spirit of the Article 136 of the Constitution of India, of which His Excellency, the President of India is the Guardian. This act of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey is against the ethos Constitution of India, and if not checked, it may upset the constitutional law and the democratic secular character of this vast country.

The Manipur International Youth Centre (MIYC) congratulates His Excellency, the President of India in serving the nation as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India. We pray that the Almighty God shall grant His Excellency, the President of India wisdom and health to lead the country in this. As the guardian of the Constitution, we convey through this letter the concern of the Manipur University Community in particular and the Manipur People in general about the present scenario in Manipur University with thousands of students on the brink of losing their bright academic career and make this solemn urge to bring an end to the ongoing Manipur University Disaster by demilitarising the Manipur University and by removing Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey from the Vice-Chancellorship of Manipur University in your capacity as the Visitor of the Manipur University and in exercise of the powers conferred on you under the provisions of the Statute 2(5) of the Central Universities Act 2009, which states (excerpt):

"Notwithstanding anything contained in Clause (4), the Visitor may, at any time after the Vice-Chancellor has entered upon his office, by order in writing remove the Vice-Chancellor from office on grounds of incapacity, misconduct or violation of statutory provisions." May your term as the President of India be blessed by the Almighty God so that your office could be a blessing to all citizens of the country!

Yours sincerely,  
MC Meetei  
Coordinator  
Manipur International Youth Centre (MIYC)

## Meetei Tribe won't grab land .....

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are three different categories of Scheduled Tribes (i.e. quotas within quota). Chang, Khamiang, Konyak, Phom, Sangtam and Yimchunger with 25% Chakeshang Puchury, Zeliang and Sums of the Tuensang, Man, Longleng and Kiphire districts as backward tribes with 12% reservation quota. The remaining ST quota goes to the remaining tribes under unreserved quota in the name of Advanced Tribes (Ao, Angami, Lotha & Sema). Thus when indigenous Meetei community is enlisted in the scheduled tribe list, and consequently, when Manipur becomes a tribal Hill State, there will be no question of grabbing the existing ST quota of the state by the Meetei community in any manner. Therefore, there should not be unnecessary apprehension about this reality guaranteed by Indian Constitution by our brethren in the hills rather they should welcome this paradigm shift, to take place in respect of indigenous Meetei community, in the light of a prosperous and peaceful Manipur in near future. Regarding the fear of losing lands of our brethren in the hills in the hands of Meetei, when the latter is included in the ST list of the country, people should not believe in such rumour as it is unfounded, malicious and misleading without any iota of truth. Simply it is fuss about nothing. When settlement in villages in the hills are under strict control and management of vigilant village chiefs in Kuki areas, and village authorities in Naga areas, then, why there should be un-necessary apprehension in the minds of

our brethren in the highlands of their lands being encroached upon or grabbed by Meetei STs? Again, Meeteis will not turn their face towards hills, except foothills and low hills for settlement, as there is scarcity of water as compared to that of valley districts, where water is plenty and almost perennial. In reality, Meetei community having been embraced Hinduism during the reign of King Pamheiba (1709-1748), about three hundred years ago, have the practice of taking bath on daily basis and therefore, would prefer to settle in valley area where water is abundant. Therefore, settlement of Meetei in the hill areas of the state in colonies, laikais, or villages, is far from possibility. If may be noted that Meetei do not settle even in the hills located in Imphal valley except the foothills and low hills, let alone settlement in remote hill districts of the state. This may be because of the fact that Meetei worships mountains as abodes of gods and goddesses of the forests and hills. The proof is that Koubru, Thangjing, Marjing, Wangbren, Khorphaba, etc. are all located in mountains/hills of the state and people have their veneration and high regards of these deities. Meitei, the important indigenous tribe of the state, who was nesting in the hills in the early times, do not feel to return to its old habitat but to old fold/tribal status to be with other indigenous and related 36 or more tribes in the state and live in the fertile land areas of the valley districts, mingling with other communities as before, once again. According to the "theory of human migration", movement of people from one place to another take place on the

basis of availability of better facilities, for education, health care, livelihood, job, secured life, weather and climate, transport, communication, etc. among others. In the context of Manipur, Imphal is the hub of all activities and all walks of life, and as a result people from different districts inside the state as well as outside the state, settle in large numbers in colonies and villages by different communities in different parts of the valley districts. Therefore, when Meetei is included in ST list and becomes a recognized tribe of the Govt. of India, hardly he will go to the hills for settlement against the theory of human migration but to other places where better facilities are available than Imphal. People in the state should not have even the slightest misconception of grabbing lands of highlanders in the hills by Meeteis living in the valley. The demand for ST tag by Meetei community of the state is fundamentally banked on the following hard realities. Firstly, to save the Meetei, one of the important and dominant indigenous people of the state, which is showing signs of its gradual degeneration in the last few centuries and rapid downfall in the last few decades in population, land, culture, language, economy, social status, etc. in his natural habitat under the Article 342(1) of the Constitution of India? Secondly, to save the fertile lands and wetlands in the valley which are producing maximum food grains, vegetables, fishes, etc. for the people, both in the valley and hills, from being owned by more skilled, hardworking, strong, advanced and united

non-indigenous people i.e. to save the indigenous people in their natural habitat. Thirdly, to foster a harmonious, peaceful, united and progressive Manipuri society based on ethnic equality (as ST) among the indigenous communities of consanguineous relation who have been living together since time immemorial. Fourthly, to enable Meetei community, like other indigenous people in the state, to compete confidently well with other communities of India having similar social status (i.e. scheduled tribe) in the field of education, service sectors of Central Govt. etc, to earn more laurels, medals, positions, awards, privileges, etc, for better economic, social, educational, cultural and political status of Meetei in particular and Manipur in general, by discarding and discontinuing decades long practice of competing with highly advanced educated and organized communities wrongly in General Category/OBC of other states in the country. In fine, the demand for restoration of ST status is to save Meetei from being extinct in its own habitat and to bring harmony, progress and peace among the indigenous people in the state, and hence, the indigenous people in the state should see this great historic event of Meetei's returning to its original/tribal fold to be in equal footing with other ethnic tribes as home coming and should extend warm and hearty welcome by all the indigenous people of the state, without any reservation. We all need to remember the very well known proverb - "blood is thicker than water" and "birds of the same feathers flock together" at least in the context of present Manipur.