

# Editorial

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

## Fate of Manipur

Manipur and North East region now becomes a new playground for multinational companies from India and other imperialist and capitalist countries to exploit its land and resources. Manipur has been subjected to modern day colonialism. Manipur, endowed with rich minerals deposits, such as Limestone, Chromite, Nickle, Copper, Malachite, Azurite and various platinum group in Chandel, Tengnoupal, Ukhrul etc continue to reel in economic colonization. With Manipur confirmed with rich oil deposits of Oil in Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Jiribam, Imphal West Districts etc, oil companies like Oil India Limited, the Asian Oilfield Survey Limited, Jubilant Oil and Gas private limited, Alphaeco etc with support of the Government of India aggressively tried to explore and drill oil from Manipur despite peoples objections. Efforts for mining and oil exploration in Manipur by the Government of Manipur without recognizing the rights of its people and by subjecting them to land acquisition and other human rights violations is a semblance of modern day imperialism and economic colonialism by the Government of India to subdue Manipur economically and politically. The Government of India should stop exploiting Manipur's natural resources and should recognize her Self Determination over her land and resources.

On one hand, International Financial Institutions (IFI)'s intensified their presence and reach in Manipur and across India's North East, financing in building roads, power generation and other connectivity projects, facilitating the plunder of land and resources of Manipur to further global capitalism and India's imperialist expansionism. The World Bank financed 400 KV High Voltage Transmission and Distribution line will facilitate the proposed construction of Hundreds of hydropower projects across Manipur and in North East India over the Barak-Brahmaputra River System. The Asian Development Bank and Japan also financed road infrastructure to facilitate these project and extractive industries.

The unprecedented involvement and role of the IFIs in Manipur already led to unprecedented expropriation of land and suppression of communities asserting their rights over their resources. The overt IFI financing will impoverish Manipur, subjecting her to indebtedness to their loans thus compelling Manipur to mortgage the resources, water, oil, forest, minerals etc to service such debt.

The signing of the India - ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 2009 already led to adverse economic and social impact to the people of Manipur, which already has been converted into a dumping ground of primary products, agriculture, clothes etc from South and South East Asia. The extensive investment in connectivity projects, Trans Asian Highway, the Trans Asian Railway and military stations for expanding neo-liberal trading system under the India - ASEAN Free Trade Agreement further exposed Manipur and other North East region to the imperialist globalization, with impact on peoples' lives, land and resources. India's FTA with ASEAN will intensify exploitation of natural resources of Manipur, such as hydrocarbon reserves and water sources in North East for trading with South East Asian Countries.

The strong push for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the NE region under FTA will also lead to exploitation of the people of North East, using them as cheap labour to produce bulk goods of Multinational companies while also exploiting and using raw material resources from the region. The SEZs will set up viewing the people of the region as market for these cheap bulk goods. The India - ASEAN FTA will ultimately destroy the primary and secondary economic bases, such as handloom and handicraft industries of Manipur, further reinforcing India's economic colonization of Manipur.

On Environment, the pursuance of India's Act East Policy and the connectivity projects, such as the Trans Asian Railway, road projects with the focus to exploit the natural resources of Manipur led to destruction of environment. Many fish species are already lost and endemic species like Sangai are facing threats due to NHPC's 105 MW Loktak hydroelectric Project in Manipur.

The increased destruction of peoples land and resources by multinational corporations with financing by IFIs led to increased militarism and militarization of peoples land and territories, with the legal backing of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958. The establishment of military camps to support such destructive development also led to pressure on land and destruction of environment.

The construction of mega projects, such as dams, oil exploration, Trans Asian railway etc led to destruction of natural and cultural sites of Manipur. The loss of endemic fish and plant species land and resources involved in the plunder of Manipur's land and resources also involved undermining the unique natural and cultural heritages of Manipur. Indian military continues to occupy historical and cultural sites in hills of Manipur, such as Langthabal and Chingha Hills.

## Lost

I have lost my original certificate for my class-XII examination issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COSHEM) bearing Roll No. 14144 of 2009 on the way between Brahmapur to Paona Bazar on 10/02/2019. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Moirangthem Umakanta Singh  
Brahmapur Chungkham Leikai

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## Meghalaya Congress women chief demands recall of Governor Tathagata Roy

Agency  
Shillong, Feb 20,

Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy on Tuesday supported a call for boycott of "everything Kashmiri" following the terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu and

Kashmir that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF troopers on Thursday.

Quoting an appeal from a retired Army Colonel, Roy tweeted: "Don't visit Kashmir, don't go to Amarnath for the next 2 years. Don't buy articles from Kashmir emporia

or Kashmiri tradesman who come every winter. Boycott everything Kashmiri. I am inclined to agree."

However, Roy's tweets evoked sharp reactions from the opposition Congress in the state.

State's Congress women's president Jopin Scott Shylla demanded recall of Governor Roy for his controversial tweet for supporting an appeal of unnamed colonel of an Indian Army to "boycott everything Kashmiri".

"Kashmir is part and parcel of India. We are against Pakistan and not against Kashmiri. We completely disagree with Governor's comment," Shylla, who led a candle light vigil to pay homage to the CRPF soldiers killed in the Pulwama terror attacks, in Meghalaya's

capital on Tuesday, said. Following criticism to his tweet, the Meghalaya governor again replied in his twitter: "Vociferously violent from media and several others to my ECHOING of a suggestion from a retired army colonel. A purely NON-VIOLENT REACTION to the killing of our soldiers by the hundreds and the driving out of 3.5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits." Roy further tweeted: "The Pakistan Army (who are handling the Kashmiri separatists) was among their own in East Pakistan in 1971. They slaughtered and raped right and left. And they would have kept EP but for the whacking from India." I am not suggesting that we go that far. But at least some distance?"

## BJP government opts against ordinance on Citizenship bill

Agency  
New Delhi Feb 20,

Facing stiff opposition from its own allies in the northeast, the Modi government has opted against an ordinance on the Citizenship Amendment Bill even as it approved four other ordinances at a meeting of the Union Cabinet on Tuesday. There was speculation that the government may decide on promulgating the ordinance on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 which was not passed by Parliament in the Budget session of Parliament, the last session before the Lok Sabha polls.

The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha but not in Rajya Sabha where the Modi government lacks a majority. Though Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, are eager to pass the bill which seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslim minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Asom Gana

Parishad (AGP), its ally in Assam, had left the alliance over the bill and several other allies in the northeast had also strongly opposed the bill.

BJP's Chief Minister in Manipur N. Biren Singh had also called for a review of the bill.

He had met Home Minister Rajnath Singh along with his party counterpart from Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu earlier this month to apprise him of the situation in their states in the wake of opposition to the bill and urged the Centre not to go ahead with it. However, BJP chief Amit Shah had said in Guwahati on Sunday that the party will make the Citizenship Bill part of its manifesto for the next elections and pass it on return to power this year.

It remains to be seen if the BJP will tie-up with the AGP for the Lok Sabha polls since the latter had said it had broken with the BJP now over this bill but did not emphatically rule out an alliance "in the future".

## Intermittent rains in state to increase minimums

Agency  
Kohima Feb 20,

Nagaland has always evoked a sense of mysticism, represents unimaginable beauty, moulded perfectly for a breathing experience. In the past 24 hours and at present, isolated light rains have been observed over the northern districts of Nagaland.

Places like Mon, Longleng, Mokokchung and Tuensang have witnessed traces of rain and would continue to receive intermittent rains for next 24 hours. Thereafter, weather would turn dry. However, sky may be partly cloudy.

As per Skymet Weather, another spell

of rain and thundershower activities are foreseen around February 24 and the intensity would go up between February 25 to 27. The minimums will see a rise by 2°C-3°C between February 22 and 23 because of increase in clouding and humid south-easterlies.

During this time, there are chances of few moderate spells with isolated intense spell of thundershowers. Also, chances of hailstorm cannot be ruled out. As per the experts, weather would once again start clearing up by March 1 and the maximums would rise by 3°C-4°C.

For the state of Nagaland and rest northeastern states, month of

February is not a rainy month. Lesser number of rainy spells can be attributed to lack of weather systems. The rains over Nagaland and northeastern states are seen due to the easterly movement of Western Disturbance which travel towards Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and affecting Nagaland also.

At times, the Cyclonic Circulation also develops over Assam and its adjoining areas due to influx of moist winds from Bay of Bengal which also enhances the rainfall activities. However, these weather systems are not very frequent but this year, the Western Disturbances have been visiting the Himalayas at very regular intervals.

## Meghalaya: UDP walks out of BJP-led NEDA, NDA over Citizenship Bill row, says Lotha

Agency  
Meghalaya Feb 20,

In what may be termed as a blow to the BJP-led NEDA in Meghalaya, reports are in that United Democratic Party (UDP) has decided to break alliance with BJP. The same was stated by Hayithung Bill Lotha who recently resigned from the post of BJP National Secretary for ST and Minorities in Delhi.

In a press statement pertaining to this, Party vice president, Allanray Franklin Dkhar, said, "The regrouping of all North Eastern Political Parties in Guwahati has rendered NEDA bereft of regional parties."

Dkhar also said that UDP is not a part of NDA, as NDA is a Parliamentary Alliance and the party has no MP in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. He further said that led by Donkupar Roy, the UDP strongly opposes Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and asked the government to seriously look into the implementation of Inner Line Permit (ILP).

It should be noted that Amit Shah on Sunday said that if the BJP comes back to power again, the party would revive the CAB. Shah's remarks have evoked sharp reactions among various political as well as indigenous organizations in the northeastern States as the CAB lapsed in Rajya Sabha after massive protests in the region. Notably, UDP has 8 MLAs in the NPP-led government in Meghalaya.

It may be mentioned that Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) was the first regional party in Assam to break ties with NEDA over CAB row.

## Nikhat Zareen, Meena Kumari win gold as Indian women boxers clinch 6 medals at 70th Strandja Memorial Boxing

Our Correspondent  
New Delhi, Feb 19,

Indian women boxers collected a rich haul of 6 medals, including two gold, one Silver and three bronze medals to finish their campaign on a high at the 70th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria on Tuesday. Former world junior champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Mainsam Meena Kumari Devi (54kg) grabbed the gold medals while debutante Manju Rani (48kg) had to settle for silver.

The 22-year-old Zareen was absolutely ruthless in her bout against Magno Irish of the Philippines. With a flurry of punches, the two-time national champion never allowed her opponent to settle into the match and was declared a unanimous 5-0 winner. Nagaland's Mainsam Meena Kumari collected the second gold medal of the day although the former Asian Championships bronze medalist was made to work hard for it. Aira Villegas of Philippines fought tooth and nail

with the Indian in the 54kg final but Meena Kumari's speed, alertness and resolve helped her pull through 3-2 in the tightly-contested match.

India, however, met with disappointment in the 48kg category where Manju Rani went down 0-4 to former world champion Josie Gabuco of the Philippines. The latter's experience proved too much for the young Manju to handle, who was making her debut on foreign soil.

The 48kg Indian national champion initially lost 1-4 but a point was docked after she received a warning for accidentally punching the opponent even after the referee pronounced the end of the bout. This is a creditable show put up by Indian women pugilists in the first tournament of the European boxing calendar. Earlier, Indian women had delivered three bronze medals following the semi-final losses suffered by Neeraj (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pwila Basumatary (64kg). With this, they emulated the performance by the Indian



women's team from last year when they finished with six medals as well. India could add yet another gold through the only Indian

remaining in the men's draw, Amit Panghal. The Asian Games gold medalist has his 49kg final bout scheduled later in the day.

## Original Certificate lost

I have lost my Original Certificate, Admit Card, Mark Sheet, Registration Card of Class (X) examination, bearing roll no. 11326 of 2008, issued by BOSEM, and Admit Card, Mark Sheet, Registration Card of my Class (Xii) examination bearing roll no. 8008 of 2010, issued by COSEM, and also Mark Sheet, Registration Card of my B.A 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> semester Admit Card, bearing Roll no. 125445, issued by M.U 2010 to 2013 on way between Imphal to Sugnu on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019. Finders are requested to hand over the undersigned

Kimmeihoi Kipgen  
D/O (L) Tongthang Kipgen  
of Sugnu