

Discussion on Manipur Merger Agreement held at Red Land Shillong *Shillong Times* said it was annexation, but our intellectuals are afraid to use it – RK Bobichand

IT News
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September 21 of 1949 was day that the then king of Manipur, Maharajah Bodhachandra was forced to sign the "Merger Agreement". The Shillong Times in its report said that Manipur was annexed by India, but what is most unfortunate is that intellectuals of today's Manipur seem to be afraid of stating that Manipur was annexed to the Dominion of India. This was stated by RK Bobichand, Deputy Director Free Press School of Journalism, while talking as a resource person on the One Day open discussion on Manipur Merger Agreement and Question of Manipur National Identity organised by Shillong Manipuri students Union at the historic Red Land of Shillong in Meghalaya today.

'Red Land' is the place where Maharaj Bodhachandra and his team were kept under

house arrest and force to sign the Merger Agreement on this day of 1949.

Bobichand further said that the people of the state of Manipur had agreed that Manipur was annexed by the Indian Union and that annexation was resolved as "Illegal and Unconstitutional" by a public convention held at GM Hall Manipur in 1993. However, the intellectuals and some high profile politician of the state are afraid to say that Manipur was annexed to India, He added.

"While we know that Manipur was annexed, and remaining silence without highlighting that the erstwhile Asiatic Kingdom was annexed by the Indian, will do no good to the state", Bobichand said and added that our intellectuals and other thinkers need to research and write the truth that Manipur was annexed and not merged. Only then the world will know the proper history of the state as the

world forum need documents and facts written, he added. Advocate L. Jadumani, Consultative Member UCM, who also attended as resource person while speaking on the occasion recalled on how the then Home Minister of India Sardar Vallabhai Patel responded when the emissary of the Dominion of India, Mr. Prakash messaged him that Maharaj Bodhachandra declined to sign the agreement.

It was on record, Jadumani said, and added that the then Home Minister of India Sardar Vallabhai Patel asked Mr Prakash if there were no Army. This means that the Dominion of India was prepared to even wage war to Manipur if the agreement was not signed by the Maharaja of Manipur. Jadumani said that Mr. Prakash was that time not the Governor of Manipur as his tenure was already over but was sent as he used to have a close affiliation with Maharaj

Bodhachandra. That time after the signing of the Merger Agreement at Shillong Manipur was annexed to the Indian Union on October 15 of 1949. The then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and the Home Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel, has announced the merger through media and made many promised to Manipur. Where are the promises now?, Jadumani questioned.

"The event that took place here in Redland, Shilong is a clear example of Manipur to have been annexed by the Indian Union" Jadumani said. He further said that there is nothing wrong to be inside India but in one condition. If Manipur and India have to be together then Manipur should have its own identity that have been inherited before it became a part of India and the identity and status of Manipur should be respected by the India. However, if we see the

attitude of the India it is well known that the erstwhile Kingdom was reduced to the status of Part C state govern by a Commissioner.

Ningthoujam Munich Singh President, Manipur Sahitya Parishad Meghalaya & Regional Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, who also attended as resource persons highlighted the significance of organising the discussion programme at Red Land Shillong.

The One Day open discussion programme held at Red Land Shillong was attended by various leaders of students' bodies including Dhanakumar Ningthouja President SUK, Peter Leishram, President AMSU, Pangambam Nilakanta Bhuiyan, Vice-President MSF, Salam Akash, President DESAM, Yumnam Rajesh, Ex-President AIMS and Chongtham Thagamba Meitei President SMSU dais members.

Irregularities in the Horticulture Dept A Class Contractual post engaged in Horticulture Dept. by violating RR

IT News
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Time and again irregularities to the appointment of engaged contractual post or regularization of the contract staff have been happening in the department of Horticulture & Soil conservation department and so far no enquiry, no action has been taken up by the government authority even as the Chief Minister had time and again promises to root out corruption from the state.

After 18 contract staff of the MHID had been regularised as gazetted officers in the department by violating the government rules and regulation, the government is likely to regularize another contract staff who was appointed by violating the regulations for appointment of engaged staffs. Source said that the proposal for regularization of the said contract staff is going to be approved by the state cabinet.

A class - I Gazetted officer post of Agriculture Officer (Chemist) in Fruit Preservation Factory (MAGFRUIT) under the Department of Horticulture & Soil conservation, Manipur was engaged on contractual basis for a period of 1 (one) year vide Directorate of Horticulture & Soil conservation, Manipur, proposal letter n. DH & SC-1/820/2018 date 22nd June, 2018. As per approval from the Finance Department (PIC) Vide order No. U.O. 355/2018-2019/FD (PIC) dated 20/02/2019, the Government had conveyed approval vide letter No. 9/2/2018-HSC dated 7th March, 2019 for engagement of the said contractual post. The

contractual engagement to the post was done without any notification or advertisement in the newspapers / media which itself is a violating for any engagement to the post was a result of nepotism.

When the state is facing acute shortage of Government employment with many eligible candidates looking restlessly for a job, such an attempt will be a great demotivation and encroachment of their rights to fair competition for gaining employment.

Earlier, 18 contractual staff in the designation of Horticulture Assistant under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)" was regularised earlier by a Cabinet decision as class II Gazetted officer in the cadre of Assistant Agriculture officer / Equivalent in the State Horticulture & Soil Conservation Department. While the matter of the regularization of the A.A.O.s in the Department is still in the High court of Manipur since 2017 registered as case No. WP(c) 208 (2017) Registration Date 21-03-2017.

Till date as many 31 hearings was postponed without a judgement/final hearing. So, it apprehensive on the part of unemployed Agri/Horti. Graduates, if such regularization should take place in the near future. It may be noted that the present Government is claiming high on transparency and good Governance while on the other hand, such a trend of regularization in the Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Manipur is in vogue.

CM appeals villagers of Makhan Khuman area to maintain calm and refrain from violence

IT News
Imphal, Sept. 21

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appealed the villagers of the Makhan Khuman area of Senapati District to maintain calm and refrain from violence.

At a press conference held at Chief Minister's Secretariat today, Chief Minister appealed both sides to resolve the dispute through dialogue. Chief Minister maintained that the government has already held talks with one group and will hold meeting with another side soon to resolve the situation. He said that a Ministerial team would be sent to the affected area, if required. He maintained that prohibitory order under section 144 of CrPc has been imposed to control the situation and to maintain peace in the area.

Mentioned may be made that some miscreants torched several houses at Makhan Khuman Village in Senapati district over the land dispute last Tuesday. The press conference was attended by Principal Secretary to CM Rakesh Ranjan, OSD to CM Sumant Singh and other officials.

GSDP doubled under the present regime: CM

DIPR
Imphal, Sept 21

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has increased doubled from 4 percent in 2016-17 to 8 percent in 2018-19. This was stated by him during the press conference held at Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

Briefing the media persons, Chief Minister stated that the State owned Tax revenue has steeply increased from 587 crores in 2016-17 to above 1000 crores in 2018-19. Such result shows that with the advent of the present government there is economic growth in the State, he added. Such pace of development and growth would transform Manipur into an advanced state in near future. He opined that the government could

achieve such result with the love, support and co-operation of the people of the State. Once a bandh, blockade stricken region has been completely transformed to a region of economic growth, he added.

Chief Minister maintained that the influx of foreign tourists has been drastically increased from 500-600 tourists per year in 2015-16 to above 1000 tourists per month these days.

During the press conference, Chief Minister said that the government is planning to legalise Cannabis solely for the medicinal and industrial purposes. The State Cabinet would discuss the matter in the next Cabinet meeting. He also mentioned that other states like Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have already legalised

Cannabis for medicinal purposes.

Chief Minister announced that under the 'Start-up Manipur' scheme, a new program called 'Stand-up Manipur' would be introduced to provide soft loans to SC, ST, OBC, Minority entrepreneurs of the State. A Facilitation Cell for enabling S C / S T / O B C / M i n o r i t y entrepreneurs to provide information and assist the entrepreneurs belonging to weaker sections for availing the projects under various schemes of Government of India, he added.

Expressing the historic step taken by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on corporation tax rate cuts, Chief Minister said that all domestic companies would be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 22 percent which was earlier 30 percent. Any

new domestic manufacturing company, incorporated on or after October 1, 2019, will be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 15 percent, he added. He maintained that no tax on buyback of shares in case of listed companies which have already made a public announcement of buyback before 5th July 2019.

Chief Minister also mentioned that there would be an expansion in the scope of CSR activities. The companies can now spend 2 percent of the money on State or Union government initiatives, PSUs, state universities, IITs, public funded entities, he added.

The press conference was attended by Principal Secretary (Finance) Rakesh Ranjan who is also Principal Secretary to CM, OSD to CM Sumant Singh and other officials.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces corporate tax relief for domestic companies

IT News
New Delhi, Sept. 21

In a surprise move to boost the corporate sector in India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced slashing of the corporate rate to 22% from 30%. She also announced a slew of other reforms, including giving a boost to manufacturing companies. These new proposals will kick in from the current financial year, from April 2019. The total revenue forgone through all these measures will be Rs 1,45,000 crore per year, she added.

Here's a rundown of everything announced by the Finance Minister:

Corporate tax slashed: To promote growth, the Finance Minister announced

that all domestic companies will now have to pay income tax at 22%, subject to the condition that they will not avail any incentive or exemptions. This will come into effect from the current fiscal (FY19-20).

The effective tax rate for these companies shall be 25.17%, inclusive of all surcharges and cess. Nirmala Sitharaman also said that the effective tax for new companies shall be 17.0%, including cess and surcharge. Companies enjoying tax holidays would be able to avail concessional rates post the exemption period.

Boosting manufacturing: All new and domestic companies incorporated on or after October 1, 2019, and making fresh investments in

manufacturing will pay income tax at 15%. This again is available for companies not availing any exemptions. The FM also said that these companies will be eligible if they commence production on or before March 31, 2023. These companies too, will be exempted from paying MAT (Minimum Alternate Tax).

Relief to listed companies: In order to provide relief to listed companies, which have made public announcement of buyback before July 5, 2019, tax on buyback of shares shall not be charged, the Finance Minister announced. In the budget, FM had announced a tax of 20% on buyback of shares.

Capital gains: In order to stabilise the flow of funds into capital markets,

FM announced that enhanced surcharge introduced in Budget of July 2019 shall not apply on capital gains arising on sale of equity share in a company or a unit of an equity-oriented fund.

"In order to stabilise the flow of funds in capital markets, increased surcharge in this year's budget shall not apply on capital gains made through the sale of equity shares in companies liable for Securities Transaction Tax (STT)," Sitharaman said.

The FM also announced that enhanced surcharge shall not apply on capital gains arising on sale of any security including derivatives in the hands of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

BJP Thoubal District Sewa Saptah Program concludes

IT News
Imphal, Sep 21,

Sewa Saptah, the programmed observed celebrating the 69th Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded today. The celebration was observed from Sept. 14 to 20. Showcasing of Art Exhibition, highlighting of the development works under Modi regime was the highlights of the programme. The programme was held at Wangjing Wangkhei Laikol. The closing programme was attended by Wangjing Thenta Constituency, MLA, P. Brojen, District President, L. Deven, Former BJP

Manipur Pradesh Vice-President, Th. Jadumani, Leaders of 6 BJP Thoubal District Mandal and Members of the BJP party. On the occasion, speakers highlighted successful projects and schemes taken up under the first 100 days of 2nd term NDA Government. They take oath to keep clean, save water and avoid the use of plastic.

MLA said that the sacrifice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government had done the works which was not done earlier. He added that we should be proud and should feel lucky of having him as a leader of our country.