# Editorial
*Saturday, September 7, 2019*

## RS MP Bhabananda was right; it was not only him who misused MPLAD

When *Imphal Times* report about the misappropriation of MP Local Area Development Fund of the Rajya Sabha MP K Bhabananda, some people who have soft corner for the MP criticize this newspaper questioning on why only "K Bhabananda". Not only the people who support him, but also the RS MP himself while addressing to a large gathering of BJP workers had asked, "Why only me?".

Since the re-launching of this newspaper on January 3, 2013, *Imphal Times* have highlighted several issues of misused of people money. If one scroll on the series of news report, people will find it. However, we as a journalist can report about the things that are going wrong as we are not the authority to punish anybody. It is the government authorities that are supposed to verify what we have been reporting and act according to it. Finally, it is the law court that will award punishment to whoever found guilty of misusing the public money.

Well, this newspaper report about the misappropriation of Public money that is the MPLADF of RS MP K. Bhabananda. Two questions often asked by our readers are – why *Imphal Times* had stopped reporting about the misused of MPLAD by RS MP K. Bhabananda? Another questioned which we in the *Imphal Times* think logical is – why only RS MP, why not other MPs or MLAs? Well as of now MP Dr. Ranjan and MP Lorho S Pfoze is yet to start utilizing of the MPLAD. And this newspaper is not remaining silence to any issues if the public money are being misappropriated. *Imphal Times* have been trying to procure all documents on how the MPLADF have been utilized by the former MP Dr. Meinya and present RS MP Mary Kom.

Well, Mr. K Bhabananda and associates as well as his supporters, what we in the *Imphal Times* had highlighted on how the public money (MPLADF) was misappropriated were never personal. On the question why only K. Bhabananda- it revealed the frustration, and see some desperate attempt to politicize the report.

To clear the pessimistic view, we would like the RS MP Bhavanda and team that our first picked happened to be you as it was random. We at Imphal Times are not going to let any stone unturned in exposing how our representatives are misappropriating public money in the name implementing developmental works.

To our next random pick- we happen to procure all documents of how former MP Dr. Meinya had utilized his MPLADF during his tenure. And we are going to highlight all the works that has been taken up by him and also the total money that had been sanctioned by him.

In our today edition we only let the people about the number of works taken up and reported complete for the year 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

So far we have found no difference between K. Bhavananda and Dr. Meinya when it comes to the misappropriation of public money as we have found out some amount for some works misappropriated or utilized to some private body. It is upto the public to decide. And don't worry we in the Imphal Times also procured documents of how the local area development fund of RS MP Mary Kom are being utilized.

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## Google Earth- an user friendly device for practical ground and aerial survey of the Earth

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Google- a word so common to all initially came up in 1998 as a private company and Larry Page & Sergey Brin were the founders even when they were Ph. D. scholars of Standford University, California. Today it has been rated as one of the biggest multinational technology company amongst the big four-Amazon, Apple & Facebook. It grew enormously and came up with a chain of products, acquisitions, and partnerships beyond Google's core search engine **(Google Search).** Services designed for work and productivity (Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides), email (Gmail/Inbox), scheduling and time management (Google Calendar), cloud storage (Google Drive), instant messaging and video chat (Google Allo, Duo, Hangouts), language translation (Google Translate), mapping and navigation (Google Maps, Waze, **Google Earth**, Street View), video sharing (YouTube), note-taking (Google Keep), and photo organizing and editing (Google Photos) are some of them. The company leads the development of the Android mobile operating system, the Google Chrome web browser, and Chrome OS, a lightweight operating system based on the Chrome browser. The Google.com is the most visited website in the world.

Amongst the company's endless products, the most commonly used by the scientific community for having the first hand information of any location is the **Google Earth**. Such initial information and results for any part of the earth can be easily interfaced to most of the geographic information system (GIS) softwares which ultimately can be linked to many prioritised scientific researches. To define it, Google Earth is a system based program that renders 3D representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery.

The program maps the Earth by superimposing satellite images, aerial photography, and GIS data onto a 3D globe, allowing users to see every location and landscapes from various angles. Users can explore the globe by entering addresses, name of any location and geographic coordinates, or by using any input keys once it's operational in the desktop versions. The app is also available for the smart phones as well and specially meant for navigation purposes. Imagery resolution used in Google Earth ranges from 15 metres of resolution to 15 centimetres. For much of the Earth, Google Earth uses digital elevation model data collected by NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission. This creates the impression of three-dimensional terrain, even where the imagery is only two-dimensional. Special features of Google Earth provide a series of other tools through the desktop application. This utility helps one to analyses the terrain condition, morphological and physiographical set up, features of regional scale; streams, river systems, mountains, deltas, plains, plateaus, etc. The time lapsed images of a same area further provide the opportunity to assess the temporal change whether it be the forest, roads, landslides and even the cloud coverage. Additional globes for the Moon and Mars are available, as well as a tool for viewing the night sky. A flight simulator game is also included. Other features allow users to view photos from various places uploaded to Panoramio, information provided by Wikipedia on some locations, and Street View imagery. The web-based version of Google Earth also includes Voyager, a feature that periodically adds in-program tours, often presented by scientists and documentarians.

Google Earth shows 3D building models in some cities, including photorealistic 3D imagery. The first 3D buildings in Google Earth were created using 3D modeling applications such as SketchUp and, beginning in 2009, Building Maker, and were uploaded to Google Earth via the 3D Warehouse. Till February, 2019 entire North America, Japan, Australian New Zealand, parts of South America, Europe, South Africa, Egypt, islands along the East Pacific ocean have 3D coverage Antartica being the only left out continent.

Since 2009, the Google Ocean feature allows users to zoom below the surface of the ocean and view the 3D bathymetry. Supporting over 20 content layers, it contains information from leading scientists and oceanographers. In June 2011, Google increased the resolution of some deep ocean floor areas from 1-kilometre grids to 100 metres. The sharper focus is available for about 5 percent of the oceans like in the Hudson off New York City, the Wini Seamount near Hawaii, and the Mendocino Ridge off the U.S Pacific coast.

Discussing a practical use of Google Earth is that one can easily visualize the scenic beauty and adventurous route, the steep gradients of Shirui Peak, aerial view of Loktak Lake within few minutes. One can even map the boundary of each constituency, municipal corporation -zila parisad jurisdictions. Planning and execution of any developmental programme can be easily geo tagged and verified using it. Because of its portability (mobile//tablet/laptop) and user friendly nature even a commoner can do many findings that are immensely helpful for local administrations, environmentally based NGO's, teachers and students for study projects. A vivid example of the time lapsed images (2009-19) of the Langol reserve forest and surrounding area clearly showed the emergence of new NIT complex during the last decade. Despite its manifold utilities, it has been viewed by some as a threat to privacy and national security, leading to the program being banned in many countries. Some countries have requested that certain areas be obscured in Google's satellite images, usually areas containing military facilities. Many a times, the NASA's satellite even forgoes the international and national boundaries of the Indian Government which can be misleading to the common masses. When zoomed in much detail, the satellite images and aerial photos have mismatched boundaries due to differences in the date of the images. Names of many places are in American language hence drastically different with the local ones. 3D viewing and terrain analyses also require some training otherwise the first time users can develop pseudo visuals. Considering the pros and cons, Google Earth is every geoscientist's first choice of foundational research of any part of the earth. The best part is that the programme is freeware and anyone can access it with the internet connectivity.

## Ground Report: Healthcare Crisis in J&K Grows; Ayushman Bharat Suspended

However, hospital officials we spoke to said this circular does not address the problems of verification, and hence they have still not resumed processing Ayushman Bharat claims.

"From August 28, we have started scanning the documents of the patients and making manual registration but they do not get free treatment," said an employee at a government hospital, who had added only five patients since August 28, 2019. "Maybe they will get reimbursed when Internet connectivity resumes."

**"I haven't seen or spoken to my children"**

There was a rush of patients and attendants inside and outside the 200-bed Lal Ded Maternity hospital. At the entrance was a desk that said "announcer". This was an ingenious idea devised by the hospital to get in touch with doctors and attendants who are impossible to reach in the crowded hospital without a mobile phone. Announcements told attendants if their patient needed them or if doctors needed to rush to see a patient.

In the second-floor lobby, Sara Begum, dressed in a light-green salwar kameez with hair covered by a dupatta, was chatting with another patient's attendant. Sara Begum said she was here with her sister-in-law, who had had a caesarean-section, but she did not know when she would be discharged. They were from Tikipura Lolab, 110 km from Srinagar.

They had gone to their nearest community health centre, from where they had got an ambulance that dropped them at Lal Ded. She thought they would return in three days, but it had been six days. Sara Begum was anxious. "I haven't seen or spoken to my children," she said. "I can't express how sad I feel." There has been no way to communicate with her three children or husband, or to tell other relatives to come and relieve her.

**A doctor's walk to find his patient**

On September 2, 2019, 27 days after the communication blockade, Omar Salim Akhtar, 38, a urologist at the Government Medical College, Srinagar, was worried about a patient he had not seen for a month. Gulam Mohammed, 85, had multiple ailments – hypertension, diabetes, some degree of renal failure and prostate enlargement.

Until a month ago, Mohammed often consulted Akhtar, coming to the hospital with one of his family members. Unable to call Mohammed or his family, Akhtar wanted to know if the patient was well.

After finishing 12 surgeries, Akhtar still had an hour of duty left. He decided to take a walk downtown, past the security barriers, and try to find Mohammed's home. He walked 2 km to reach Fateh Kadal, a neighbourhood under a stifling lockdown.

Akhtar remembered Mohammed telling him he lived across the bridge. "I crossed the bridge, took a left and walked to the next lane," said Akhtar, a lean man in a polo shirt, sporting a stubble. "Thankfully I saw Mohammed's grandson on his cycle. He said, 'What are you doing here, Doctor?' I told him I had come to see his grandfather."

Once inside, Akhtar found that Gulam Mohammed was doing alright. He walked back to his hospital.

In a city dotted with security bunkers and thousands of security personnel after the security clampdown since August 5, 2019, walking to Srinagar's downtown was fraught with risk, but that did not deter Akhtar.

Akhtar is the doctor whose video went viral, after he was arrested – he was released two hours later – in Srinagar's press enclave on August 26, 2019, after he told the media how the communications blockade was affecting his patients.

"This is not a protest, this is a request," he had written on a placard. He said he had wanted to bring to attention the hospital's inability to process Ayushman Bharat claims because there was no internet.

"Due to the lack of internet and phone connectivity, we are unable to provide [free] treatment since the past three weeks," Akhtar had said previously. "Therefore, I have seen my own patients and other patients spend from their pocket to pay for their dialysis, chemotherapy, etc."

Akhtar's efforts resulted in the August 28, 2019, circular that allowed a relaxation of the seven-day deadline.

**Doctors are idle, as a need for them grows**

An unusual sight caused by the communication clampdown is doctors and surgeons idle for hours. We found paediatricians, cardiologists, orthopaedics and general physicians chatting over cups of tea in private and government hospitals. With very few surgeries and fewer outpatients, doctors have time on their hands, at a time when patients need them.

"Government hospitals in Srinagar have enough (weekly) stocks to last for eight months," said the head of urology at one of Srinagar's government hospitals. "What is missing are the patients."

He sat in the hospital canteen with the head of paediatrics. There were six tables with cheap plastic covers, and the doctors had just finished their lunch.

"There is no way to know what happened to patients who were supposed to come for a follow-up but did not turn up," the urologist said.

Two younger consultants joined in, and the doctors discussed how to deal with the dichotomy: idle doctors in hospitals and patients at home waiting to get to the hospital.

"I have proposed this to a private hospital – if they get patients who require surgeries, I will do the surgery for free," said the head of paediatrics. "If a surgery costs Rs 40,000, we can slash our fees and only charge for the equipment and medicines, the cost can come down to around Rs 6,000."

The head of paediatrics then showed some papers – he was planning voluntary retirement and a move to the United Kingdom. He had trained there but chose to return to Kashmir, refusing an offer in the United Arab Emirates. After August 5, he said he wanted to leave.

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*(Councluded)*