

## Absconded murderer with Rs. 5000/- reward on his head arrested

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 5

A special team of Imphal West police station led by Additional Sp (Ops) Amarjit Singh Lamabam and CDO OC Inspector Achouba had arrested a wanted murderer who have been absconding after about 15 years from Bashikhong area in Imphal East yesterday evening. Home department of the government of Manipur had announced a sum of Rs. 50,000/- to anyone who can give information or whereabouts of the murderer identified as Ningombam Ithomba Singh (56yrs) of Kongba Irong Bashikhong. The person has been absconding in connection with the murder of one R.K. Sanjaoba in 2004.

## CLP urges government for discussion on guidelines of ILP at state assembly session

‘Indigenous people’ and the ‘Permanent Resident’ in the ILP guidelines not clearly defined – O. Ibobi

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Imphal, Jan 5

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Okram Ibobi Singh today urged the government for a threat bare discussion over the formulation of guidelines for Inner Line Permit introduced in the state under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations. “The ‘Indigenous people’ and the ‘Permanent Resident’ mentioned in the guideline as per the gazette notification of the Government of Manipur published on December 31, are not clearly defined”, the former Chief Minister and leader of the opposition Okram Ibobi Singh said while talking to a group of reporters at his official quarters today morning. Congress MLAs Gaikhanam, G. Govindas Konthoujam, K. Ranjit, DD Thaisii, Khumukcham Joykishan and K. Meghachandra were also present during the press conference. Okram Ibobi Singh said that the appropriate forum for discussion of such issue for law makers is the State



Assembly and the special session scheduled tomorrow should give time to discuss the issue of guidelines for ILP for implementing it effectively, as the ILP is a long pending demand for the people of the state. “The agenda for tomorrow’s session is for endorsing the 126 Amendment of the article 334 for extension of reservations of the ST, SC and other marginal communities for another period of 10 years and that the speaker of the house can take the opportunity of the sitting to discuss over the guidelines of the ILP”, Ibobi said urging the

government for listing of discussing the guidelines for implementation of ILP in Manipur. “No provisions of the Manipur Peoples’ Protection Bill which the state Assembly had passed as per the desire of the people of the state, that is still remain pending for getting assent has been included in the guideline”, Ibobi said while adding that there are loopholes to the guidelines for effective implementation of the ILP which is the desire of the people. The CLP leader even cited example of neighbouring state

Nagaland saying that after the state felt that there are loopholes to the ILP in their state they even constituted a High Power Committee for examining it. The recommendation by the committee after thorough examination had submitted a report. Even the state of Arunachal Pradesh also felt the same as the present ILP is not effective enough to check the influx of outsiders. Ibobi also urged the government to take the matter with extreme seriousness an appeal for a threadbare debate in the state assembly. The guidelines have no provision of how long a student studying in the state could be stayed and exempting all Army personnel, Paramilitary and those working in central services and their family members from ILP is gross mistake as the guidelines. If it is about those posted in the state then it is okay but exempting the ILP to all central government employee will make ILP meaningless, Ibobi said.

## RBI’s new curbs on urban cooperative banks

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 5

As a sequel to Rs 6300 crore fraud in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, having branches in 6 states, RBI has decided to make it compulsory for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) having total assets of Rs.500 crore (as of end March 2019), to report credit information, including classification of an account as Special Mention Account (SMA), on all borrowers having aggregate exposures of Rs.5 crore.

The coop banks will be required to submit information to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) maintained by the RBI. Aggregate exposure shall include all fund-based and non-fund based exposure, including investment exposure on the borrower. RBI notification dated 27 December 2019 stated. The new curbs include: the creation of a board of management (in addition to a board of directors), is aimed at addressing the issues arising out of dual control. Urban cooperative banks with deposits above Rs.100 crore must constitute a board of management (BOM). This requirement will be a mandatory for opening new branches. Since UCBs are accepting public deposits, it is imperative that a separate mechanism be put in place to protect the interests of depositors,” said the RBI in its notification.

The BOM will comprise expert banking professionals. It will also exercise oversight on banking-related functions of the UCBs, assist the Board of Directors (BOD) on formulation of policies and any other related matter, specifically delegated to it by the board for proper functioning of the bank. The BOM will be constituted by the BOD within a period of one year from the date of the circular, and have a minimum of five members and may have as many as 12 members. The

chairman of the BOM may be elected by the members from among themselves, or appointed by the BOD, it added. UCBs will have to make suitable amendments to their by-laws, with the approval of the general body and registrar of cooperative societies to provide for the constitution of BOM, in addition to the BOD.

The CEO of a UCB may be appointed by the board, and he should be a person meeting the ‘fit and proper’ criteria. UCBs having deposits of Rs. 100 crore and more will obtain prior approval of the RBI for the appointment of a CEO. The CEO will be a non-voting member, the RBI said.

The RBI has also issued a comprehensive cyber security framework for UCBs, based on a graded approach and the banks have been categorised into four levels based on their digital depth and interconnectedness to the payment systems landscape. The decision assumes significance against the backdrop of a scam at Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, which has affected 915,000 depositors. 21,049 bank accounts were opened by bogus names to conceal 44 loan accounts and the bank’s software was also tampered to conceal these loan accounts.

Besides, the PMC bank allegedly favoured “Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd” (HDIL) and allowed it to operate password protected ‘masked accounts’. Statutory inspection of PMC by the RBI revealed large group exposure of about Rs.6,226.01 crore to HDIL and its group companies. Of the total exposure to the HDIL group, only Rs.439.58 crore was disclosed to the RBI while Rs.5,786.43 crore remained undisclosed. In the meanwhile the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police has arrested 12 people, including 5 top bank officials, in connection with the PMC Bank fraud.

## Rumours of Air India baseless: AI India chief Ashwani Lohani

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Although the Air India is reeling under an enormous debt burden, the airline will not be closed down and it would continue to fly and expand and there should be no cause for concern whatsoever to travellers, corporates or agents, the Air India Chairman and Managing Director Ashwani Lohani tweeted on Saturday. “The Air India, the national carrier is still the biggest airline of India,” Ashwani said and dispelled rumours that India’s

flag carrier would be closed down. Lohani’s statement assumes significance since Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had clarified on December 31 that the national carrier, is incurring a loss of Rs 20-26 crore daily and it will keep on running till it is privatised. Air India’s net loss increased to Rs 8,556.35 crore in 2018-19, compared to net loss of Rs 5,348.18 crore reported for 2017-18. While Air India’s net loss in 2018-19 was around Rs 8,556 crore, its current total debt is around Rs 80,000 crore. In 2018, the government had

proposed to offload 76 per cent equity share capital of the national carrier as well as transfer the management control to private players. However, the offer failed to attract any bidder when the deadline for initial bids closed on May 31, 2018. Therefore, the Centre re-started the disinvestment process. The Centre plans to divest its entire stake in Air India this time so as to make it attractive for private entities. At a meeting with some 13 Air India unions in Delhi on Thursday, Puri said that the government was trying to address the concerns of the

employees regarding issues such as job protection post privatisation. In the meanwhile, the airline has managed to sell 32 of the 111 properties put on the block. The debt-laden airline is making a renewed bid to raise funds by auctioning real estate assets, including some it could not sell in previous auctions by lowering the reserve price of some of the properties. Air India has lowered the reserve price of some of these properties, especially those in Tier 1 cities, to attract buyers, a senior Air India official said, requesting

anonymity. The properties on the block include flats at Asian Games Village Complex in New Delhi, flats in Kolkata’s Golf Green area, residential land in Mumbai’s Bandra, Khar and Prabhadevi areas, a holiday home in Navagala, flats at Chennai’s Besant Nagar, apart from flats in Bengaluru and Mangaluru. The reserve price of these units range from Rs.15 lakh to about Rs.8 crore. Air India’s plan to monetize its real estate is part of a turn around plan (TAP), which was approved by the government in 2012.

## A Critique of the Manipur ILP Guidelines 2019

By - Dr. MalemNingthouja  
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**Introduction**  
On 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 the Government of Manipur issued a Manipur Inner Line Permit Guidelines, 2019. The Guidelines was issued to comply with a promise of Chief Minister N. Biren to implement an Inner Line Permit System in Manipur before the onset of the year 2020. The Chief Minister could announce the promise as he was possibly confident by a notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs, dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, that notified Adoption of Laws (Amendment) Order, 2019 that extended Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 to Manipur. A chunk of population in Manipur celebrated the occasion. They celebrated because the President of India, on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, gave an assent to Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

According to a provision of the Act, there is an exemption of the Amendment into those regions where Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1873 have been enforced. The decision of the Government of India to enforce such an exemption was conditioned by a consistent and intense agitation in Manipur and other parts of Northeast opposing CAA. The agitation was motivated by a widespread apprehension of a demographic invasion by a vast chunk of population supposedly selected and encouraged by the Government of India. It is, therefore, quite natural that many in Manipur would organize celebration when Manipur was exempted from CCA in consequence of the extension of Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation. In Manipur, popular movement to protect indigenous rights has been consistent for many

years. It demanded enforcement of an Inner Line Permit System or enactment of a law similar to it. When the Government of India, in due recognition of popular sentiments, notified a list of the regions that would be exempted from CCA 2019, Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 was extended to Manipur. Subsequently, Manipur Inner Line Permit Guideline, 2019 was published. However, it remains to be answered if the Guidelines will certainly protect the indigenous people of Manipur. Will it adequately address the specific popular demands to protect and promote indigenous people? The demands are: (1) to have a regulatory mechanism to stop unrestrained inflow of outsiders, (2) to prevent outsiders from owning land, (3) to prevent outsiders from owning the buildings and immovable

properties, (4) to prevent outsiders from becoming permanent citizenship and enjoying voting rights, (5) to create a base year so that anyone entering into Manipur after the base year may be identified and deported, and so on. A serious reading of Manipur Inner Line Permit Guidelines 2019 reveals that there are many issues that contradict the demand to protect and promote indigenous people. The issues are being pointed out as follows. (1) **Definition Exemption:** It is mandatory to have a proper definition in order to determine what constitutes indigenous people and permanent residents in Manipur. In order to identify indigenous and permanent residents, it is essential to have a base year. This question arises as the Guidelines exempts indigenous

people and permanent residents from ILP, though it misses out definitions of the terms. Who are the permanent residents? Can it mean anyone who may obtain a certificate issued by government for that purpose? A base year is essential to detect and identify either indigenous people or permanent residents. Will the base year be 1951 as demanded by many, or will it be 1971, or which year? Due to the silence on definitions and a base year, the Guidelines has added to the confusion about who should be required to possess an ILP card to enter and live in Manipur. It also creates a condition where a person who enter Manipur by obtaining an ILP card can identify himself with a permanent resident status through different means, and, subsequently escapes from the necessity of

obtaining an ILP card. (2) **Ownership:** Protection and promotion of indigenous rights require that indigenous people exercise ownership over their homeland, land, buildings, immovable properties, natural resources, and markets. The Guidelines does not include a provision that prevents outsiders from owning the above items. Although the principle Act of 1873 mentions prevention of outsiders from enjoying ownership over land, the Guidelines fails to mention this issue. Such a silence appears to be deliberate and meant to authorize outsiders to own the above items. There are probabilities that those who obtain Special Category Permit—rich, politically influential, powerful—and who have accumulative interest to exploit the economy of Manipur will enjoy absolute control and

monopoly of Manipur. There is a need to insert a clause, in the spirit of the principle of Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 to serve the interest of the indigenous people of Manipur. It may be inserted as follows; “It shall not be lawful for any non-indigenous person or companies or firms or enterprises or banks or finance institutions owned by outsiders, to acquire any interest in land, buildings or immovable properties, the product of land beyond, and voting rights within the ‘inner line’ of Manipur without the sanction of the Government of Manipur, who in turn can sanction such a permission only after fulfilling due process of law which shall be preceded by the free prior informed consent of the indigenous people.” (Contd. on page 2)