

## CM greets on Rath Yatra

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh greets the people of Manipur on occasion of Kang (Rath Yatra) festival. In his message the Chief Minister said that celebration of Kang festival in our State begins on the second day of Engen month of Manipuri lunar calendar and ends on the tenth day of the same month. In Hindu customs, it is believed that anyone who pulls the rope linked to the chariots of the deities and helps others also in doing so or merely touches the rope or chariots, gets the merit of several penances.

"I am hopeful that our religious duties will continue to strengthen our community heritage and social sharing", he added.

## Rath Yatra to celebrate with Rath this year

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

This year's Rath Yatra (Kang Chingba) festival organised by Shree Shree Govindajee Temple Board, Imphal every year in a grand way, will be celebrated by performing the ritual part only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A release from the by Shree Shree Govindajee Temple Board said that this year there will be no Rath Yatra (Kang Chingba) this year.

## 5.5-magnitude earthquake strikes Mizoram; 2nd in 2 days

IT News  
Aizawl, June 22:

An earthquake of 5.5 magnitude hit Champhai in Mizoram at 4:10 am on Monday. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 20 km from ground. This is the second consecutive earthquake in Mizoram.

The first one occurred on Sunday at 4:16 PM at a distance of 9 km from Ngopa in Mizoram. Tremors of the earthquake that occurred on Monday morning were felt in several parts of northeast India.

No loss of life or damage to property was reported till the filing of this report.

**Holiday**  
Imphal Times will have no publication on June 23, 2020 on account of Press Holiday in connection with the Rath Yatra.  
SD/- Manager

## 6 major civil bodies of Manipur file PIL against delimitation base on 2001 census at Manipur High Court

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

Six major civil bodies of the state had filed a Public Interest Litigation to the High Court of Manipur against the delimitation process being taken up by the delimitation commission to be conducted based on the 2001 census.

A press joint statement by the five civil bodies said that in the year 2007, the Gauhati High Court ordered Status quo under PIL No. 16/2005 on January 19, 2007. The then Manipur state cabinet decision was also taken under Agenda No. 16: Delimitation issues on Sept. 2005. The people of Manipur want delimitation on the ensuing genuine census data of 2021 by using the latest devices of electronic satellite image/ geo-tagging and

Aadhaar link-up. In the previous Census Data of 2001 and 2011, there were unacceptable double times increase of growth rate which was not mentioning gender population and non ST in comparison with the previous census data of 1991 and 2001 of 9 divisions of Manipur namely Mao Maram, Paomata, Purul, Saitu Gamphazol, Chakpikarong, Machi, Chandel HQ Kasom Khullen and Moreh.

Under the Delimitation Act of 2002, in the year 2008, the delimitation Commission of India dropped out the delimitation process of Manipur by knowing double times multiplication of population on the date of census 2001 at these sub-divisions and kept freeze until the year 2026 which is to be operated after a fresh census of 2021, it added.

After the Manipur Legislative Assembly nominated associate members to the delimitation commission on May 26, 2020 to begin the delimitation process the five civil bodies - PANDM, IPSA, ACOAMLUP, IPAK and KSA had filed the PIL to Manipur high court challenging it. The organization also pray the court for contempt case for violating the earlier court order.

The six civil bodies also stated that the people of the state are not against the delimitation, however they are against the delimitation conducted based on the 2001 census as there are extraordinary growth at some places of the state. The six civil bodies said that the people of the state will welcome delimitation base on fresh census, that is base on the census report of 2021.

## Alleged kidnappers released on bail say they were framed

IT News  
Thoubal, June 22:

The four persons who were arrested in connection with the kidnapping two non-Manipuris by state police from Charangpat area in Thoubal district on June 11, after being released on bail on June 18 said that the charges of kidnapping was a malicious attempt to sabotage the career of K. Jadumani who has been preparing to contest election. In a public meeting held at Charangpat Mamang Leikai Keithel in Thoubal district today morning, the four accused who were released on bail said that they had never kidnapped any persons for ransom and that some people conspire with the police to malign their image.

The public meeting was attended by members of the

local clubsm Meira Paibi and Pradhams along with other members.

Talking to reporters, Nahakpam Meme Devi, who was among the four arrested but released on bail later said that the two none Manipuri whom the police charged them of kidnapping for ransom are business their business partners. Those none Manipuri Birendra Saha (40) s/o Khilawan Saha from Bihar presently staying at a rented house near Thangal Bazar Kasturi Bridge and Sanjoy Patel (40) s/o Arjun Choudhury were living like family members with Kangabam Jadumani.

Memma Devi said that the four of them who were arrested by the police still is confused about their crime. On that day Birendra and Sanjoy along with Jadumani were accounting money for

their business transaction. However, wife of Sanjoy in a telephonic conversation stated that as Birendra has to leave the state and that as Sanjoy had to bear the money that they had to pay, she requested to wait till 11 am of morning as she will come along with someone who can take responsibility of Birendra.

A woman from Nambol whom the 2 non-Manipuri have been doing business called up to them and as she is not aware of the location of Charangpat they went at Yairipok Lamkhat and waited for them. All of a sudden some police personnel in civil dress arrested them from the place, she added. Later, the four of them have been charged of kidnapping the none Manipuri is happened to be a surprise to all of them, she added.

## COVID-19: 2 Doctors, 1 nurse tested positive, number reached 880

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

Lateral transmission of novel corona virus begins in the state with a nurse from Churachandpur district getting infected after being tested on June 4. The number is on the rise with two doctors and one more nurse tested positive with the novel Coronavirus in Bishnupur district, this is the second case of frontline work-

ers being exposed to the coronavirus in Manipur.

Medical department authority said that he three health workers were part of the medical team at Bishnupur COVID-19 care facility.

Their samples were tested positive at Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) at VRDL at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS).

All of them are in stable

condition and are now being shifted to the COVID-19 care facility at JNIMS for further treatment, sources said.

As per report in the morning the total positive case have reached 880 with 630 active case. 254 people have been recovered so far and there is no casualty so far. Except for the health workers, all those affected are returnee from outside the state who are in quarantine centers.

## 15 kg of fertilizer deducted from farmer's share by Agri dept. - Irobot Foundation

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

Irobot Foundation Manipur has alleged the Agriculture department of deducting 15 kg of fertilizers from the share allotted to each farmer. In addition to this the foundation also alleged the department over lack of transparency to the distribution of paddy seeds, greeneries and necessary equipments for cultivation.

tion.

"Each bag of fertilizer contain 45 kg of fertilizer but farmers are given fertilizer bag containing 30 kg only", a statement by Kh. Gopen Luwang General Secretary of the Irobot Foundation Manipur said. He added that even as season rains has arrived in time farmers are worried as the department still has not distributed the fertilizers and the machineries for cultivation on time.

Besides, the department has not distributed paddy seeds and seeds for grains not to leave aside the cultivation machineries.

The Irobot Foundation Manipur warns the department to disclose the list of the beneficiaries to public by pasting on the dashboard of each District officer's offices, as they have suspicion of distributing the materials to persons who are not in the beneficiary list.

## Lifting and distribution of PDS rice and dal continues

IT News  
Imphal, June 22:

In its effort to ensure that the people of the State are provided adequate PDS items especially rice and dal, the State Government continues lifting and distribution of rice and dal to the beneficiaries in the State.

In Churachandpur district, with the lifting of 2333.75 quintal of rice under NFSA for Saikot AC, lifting have been completed for the AC. Another 84.41 quintal of Masoor Dal have been lifted and 150 quintal of OMSS rice (MLA-LAD) was distributed in Henglep AC.

In respect of distribution of rice under NFSA to the beneficiaries in Thoubal district, 2340.65 quintal was distributed

in Wangjing Tenthia AC, 2150.10 in Wangkhem AC and 1043.45 quintal in Thoubal AC. Distribution of 2051.30 quintal in Wangjing Tenthia AC and 1830.60 quintal in Wangkhem AC was also carry out under PMGKAY.

It is also reported that 426.89 quintal of Dal had been distributed to beneficiaries of Thoubal, Wangkhem, Wangjing Tenthia and Khangabok Assembly

Constituencies on 20.06.2020.

In Thoubal district, 1902.70 quintal of rice under PMGKAY for Heirok AC had been lifted on 19.06.2020.

The State Government has been distributing PDS items in all the districts of Manipur to ensure none to suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrains on the backdrop of the outbreak of COVID-19 and the ongoing lockdown in the State.

## Ratan Tata calls for stopping online hate

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, June 22:

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata has called for stopping online hatred and bullying and instead supporting each other in what has been a "year full of challenges" for everyone.

In a post on social media platform Instagram on Sunday, Tata said the online community is being hurtful to each other and bringing each other down. "This year has been full of challenges for everyone, on some level or the other. I see online community being hurtful to each other, bringing each other down, harshly and with quick judgments," the Chairman Emeritus of the Tata group said and added "I believe this year especially calls for all of us to be unified and helpful and is not the time to pull each other down."

Urging for more sensitivity towards each other, he reiterated the need for "more of kindness and more of understanding and patience than what one sees today." Tata said while his "presence online is limited, but I truly hope it will evolve into a place

of empathy and support for everyone, no matter what your cause, rather than hate and bullying."

It may be recalled that in a post on social media platform Instagram earlier, veteran industrialist had earlier said that the coronavirus pandemic will force entrepreneurs to adapt, create and find ways to enable new or modified enterprises that would be benchmarks of tomorrow.

While seeking not to "downplay the challenges and the difficulties embedded in these current times" he had said that "It can all start on a clean sheet of paper that looks at ways of doing things that were never thought of before."

"In past difficult times, entrepreneurs have displayed far-sightedness and creativity that could not have been believed to exist. These became the flagpoles of innovation and new technology today. I hope that the ability to find another way to build a product, run a company, run operations a better way, will emerge as an outcome of the current crisis," he had said.

## Holistic treatment for COVID-19

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, June 22:

The Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) has set up a "COVID Care Ashram" in one of its existing buildings near its hospital in Wadala in central Mumbai, which promises sun light and fresh air with yoga and meditation, a break from hospital's cold ICU.

The ashram is located near MbPT's hospital which has already been serving the coronavirus patients. The ashram located on about 2 acre land, lays emphasis on Yogic exercises and seeks to reduce burden on existing hospital. Only asymptomatic patients below 50 years of age are admitted to the ashram.

Besides having facility of

oxygen supply, the "COVID Care Ashram" has some basic facilities of the hospital. It also gives holistic treatment by focusing on conducting Yoga classes, meditation classes, gargling, steam inhalation, sun bath, among others. One hour is devoted to Yoga, 90 minutes for meditation and 30 minutes for discussion on spiritualism. The patients are also required to do online "Asanas" (An asana is a posture of body. The term is derived from the Sanskrit word for 'seat').

The wards at the Ashram are spacious, well ventilated and equipped with a bed, table chair, cabinet and a pedestal fan for individuals. There is enough sun light in every ward. The patients can

use the clothes brought by them from home. The MbPT seeks to help reduce the load of the coronavirus infected patients at the hospital and provide holistic treatment to such patients.

At the ashram it's a rigorous day schedule starting 6.30 AM after tea, till bed time at 9.30 PM with a 1.5-hour-long break after lunch. A herbal drink (kadha) along with steam inhalation, and gargling is part of the treatment. All asymptomatic positive patients have to undergo health check up twice a day. The success rate has been 100% here.

The existing Mumbai Port hospital caters to nearly one lakh port employees, their families and pensioners. With the spread of the

infection, the existing hospital has already been upgraded to a 120-bed facility for Covid patients with centralised oxygen facility. Till date, the MbPT's existing hospital has admitted 611 Covid patients.

As the inflow of Covid patients was continuously increasing, it was decided to create an additional facility by creating a 70-bed 'Covid Care Ashram', Mumbai Port Trust Chairman Sanjay Bhatia said.

At present, the 70-bed ashram has as many as 20 positive patients. But MbPT is prepared to accommodate more patients. All asymptomatic positive patients have to undergo health check up twice a day. The success rate has been 100% here.

# ★ Editorial

## Demoralizing anti-corruption crusade

It is now no rumours, there are video evidences of a central government employee asking money for 'chai pani' that too to an advocate in return for a service that he has been paid by the peoples' money. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's war on corruption, which inspired the citizen of Manipur finally seems to have lost faith in him as those fighting against corruption today face death threat from persons who claimed to be party of those involved in corruption. Not only that those inspired by the chief minister to stand up against corruption, fails to get protection from the state authority by taking up action against those intimidating the whistle blowers of the corrupt practice of some officials, but are being victimized by arresting them on charges which the court finds it as unfounded allegations.

Transparency - a global movement with the vision to free the world of corruption and having chapters in more than 100 countries leading the fight against corruption describes "Corruption" as the abuse of power for private gain. It is a global phenomenon and is pervasive in almost every society the world over.

Corruption, especially in a state such as ours where strife and unrest is a part of our everyday life, is a consequence of the parasitic nexus between Bureaucrats, politicians and criminals.

Its reach and chronicity can perhaps be gauged by the very fact that at one time, bribe was paid for getting wrong things done but now bribe is being paid for getting right things done at right time.

With yesterday event at which an advocate who had exposed the corrupt practice of an government official arrested on counter charge by leaving aside the complaint lodged by the advocate for death threat, the big question is: Is it possible to contain corruption in our society?

To fully answer the question, it would be crucial to understand certain perceptions and myths such as: Corruption is a way of life and nothing can be done about it, or that only people from underdeveloped or developing countries are prone to corruption. This is being stated with the irresponsible nature of the state machineries. Well, they have limitation to encroach at a central office but the law says that a citizen should be protected from death threat even if the person is a central government employee as it is now a law and order problem which is a state subject.

## Your Constructive Criticism

By: Kaustov Kashyap

You might be in a position of authority and would want people working under you to improve. You might know someone who you think needs some friendly advice that would help them get back on track. You might be in a relationship and think your partner needs to work on certain areas. What is the right way of doing it? Does being patronizing and dismissive of someone really help them improve? You would be risking hurting people and ruining professional or personal relationships if you choose to follow these. On the other hand, if helping someone is your motive, you must focus on giving constructive criticism.

### Feedback Sandwich Or Positive Improvement Method

Often used in the corporate setting to encourage and motivate employees, this method can be further broken down into three parts. In this method, you start with focusing on the positives of the person or whatever is the concerned matter here. You then move on to what you think are the areas that can be worked upon and need improvement. Finally, you reiterate what you think are the positives and working on the mentioned areas can bring out desired results.

### Refrain From Making Personal Comments

While you are trying to give a feedback, do not make comments that might be perceived as personal attack. The focus here should be on the situation and not on the person. The good way to go about it is by isolating the situation from the concerned person first. The comment you make must be focused on the issue at hand. When you are sharing your feedback, make sure you use passive voice as active voice might come out too strong. Lastly, end it with how you are affected in the scheme of things and why you would like for certain things to change.

### Keep It Objective And Specific

If you really want someone to improve from the feedback you share, you need to keep it specific and to-the-point. While you must be careful of the points mentioned before, you need to

be clear on what exactly you want the other person to change. A typical example of a specific and constructive criticism is when you just do not leave it at mentioning the problem. You need to mention the areas where you see improvement happening and how that can be achieved. This will make the situation actionable and the criticism constructive.

### Do A Quick Self Check

This is no less important than any of the above mentioned points. Ask yourself if you are in a position to constructively criticizing someone. You should be completely convinced that the intentions are nothing but positive. If you are not convinced of the same and the idea of going ahead with it is indeed stemming from something personal, your bluff will be called.

### Extend A Helping Hand

You must never make assumptions when you are trying to give constructive criticism. If you feel you are in a position to correct someone, you must also have ideas on how they can improve. Share your inputs on how to make the situation better but choose your words carefully. Let the other person share his concerns. Extend your support and make the him feel comfortable. This way, even if your feedback is a negative one, you will be able to end the conversation on a positive note.

### There Is A Time And Place For Everything

You should not start with your valuable comments in the middle of something important. There might be more pertinent issues at hand that need to be addressed first. Once you know that the situation is favourable, take the person aside and speak to him in person. Making the person comfortable will not make him feel threatened and will ease the situation for both of you.

Constructive criticism has the power to help people grow. Whether you share it in a professional setting or a personal equation, you would be doing the person concerned and yourself a world of good by sharing your feedback. You just need to abide by the above mentioned ways and your purpose will be served.

## The larger aspect of life: The importance of the way we think

As someone thinks within himself, so he is. ~Bible (Pro. 23:7)



Janghaolun Haokip

There is always something bigger; something deeper and something seldom incomprehensible —something much more than what we can see. But the eyes are deceiving that it often makes us believe through it without much sensible speculation. The mind is no less formidable in dictating us to come to conclusion without much time for a rationale. And so are the senses we have, that are intrinsically a part of us —our existence —often tempting us to jump to conclusions without much ado. What is often left out and disregarded becomes a profound, objective, and critical thinking or simply the way we think.

What we often need in life, in everyday circumstances that we are confronted with, with or without our consciousness, is always a mechanism to defy adversities that can befall our life. The most important mechanism to that, albeit the numerous, is largely our thought formulation or the way we think, that unfortunately is the most unrecognized. Situations then seldom realise to seek for the lasting good, in fact, the lasting good is not even realised, shadowed by the assumed realization of a passing solution, especially when faced with a problem. The problem thus is failed to be seen in its nature because of the urgency to respond to it which is pressed by our

presuppositions and our shallow experiences which are largely the failures of our mind to think is rooted in. We, therefore, like accidentally touching a fire, readily respond, which almost projects like automation.

Considerations may be made in the context of the problems we face in our society at large. Our problems, much more than not, are problems of the way we think and the supposed urgency of our minds to come to conclusions. The evils of society, of hatred and prejudice and all its kinds, though largely inevitable, are all results of the way we think. It can therefore certainly be argued that problems arise when we are ignorant and arrogant of our differences with each other, and when we also fail to acknowledge the individuality of a person and as such the societal values within a society. It is rather imperative to give due credence to a person's dignified integrity, and also due civility rendered to the society, realising also the fact that the otherwise will be detrimental for a person and the society as a whole. Likewise solutions pertaining to other problems are more or less the same as said of a person. It demands the necessity to form an encompassing thought formulation and the readiness of patience required for it. Moreover, everything from relationship to work requires certain elements of thinking and problem-solving, it is the mechanism that leads us to consider our problems and find subsequent answers.

The dangers remain unchallenged; and us being unaware of our failure to form an objective thought process. This mistake is rarely realised but gets consoled with a rather shallow solution to the problem than an underlying truth or reality that is the true cause of the problem. In a

compendium, the things that we see are much more than what can immediately be perceived of it. Specifically, the problems that exist have a deeper entity than what we see, and therefore in our failure to see the larger entity, our formulation of what the immediate case would be often becomes another problem. We therefore tend to it with superficial, narrow, and doubled mindsets while we remain ignorant about the fact that we are dealing with. We fail to look at the aspects of circumstances, thereby failing to explore all its variables. The failure is also limiting our thoughts that should be explored to its limits. It is indeed an unfortunate setback, often unrealised, for the minds to not know what it's going through or not to understand at all how it all should come about.

The failure to confront our own thinking becomes a big problem with or without our consent. Some psychologists state that we are the product of our minds. It simply emphasizes the central role that our minds as a whole and our thought processes or thought formulation in particular play in our lives. The mind also is the mastermind of it being as it directly or indirectly dictates our actions that shape who we are. And because of this fact, there are cognitive analytics who argue that the mind controls the reality of our lives. Implicit is the fact that the mind before it is made to think has to be conditioned on how to think. This, as weird as it sounds, has to be realised by a person before acting out on his/her readied thoughts or conclusions. The mind has to be conditioned on expanding its horizons, broadening its perspectives, besides a more inclusive approach to various extensions of the circumstances. The mind has to be subjected to objective interpretation, and it has

to be made to observe in more profound aspects than only through substantial perception.

A lot can then simply be prevented if we think a little more, or wholly change the way we think. One must understand the necessity of thought formulation in problem-solving, while at the same time one must also learn to assess his own thoughts and reflect upon it. This is to be given paramount importance in one's dealing of life and all its facets because the purpose of thinking is to understand our world in the best way possible. The greater part of our life is also up to us to think about our lives and improve them to the best of our potentials using the knowledge we have acquired and the experiences we have gained over our years. It is to put learning into practice and to materialise the constructive abstracts of our intellect in a way that edifies ourselves and as well as our society.

However, it is not to say that all our problems can be solved through changing the way we think. The inevitability has to also be understood and accepted. The central idea is to realise the importance of our mindsets as it plays a great role in determining who we are as a person. Our thought formulation has to entail a profound visualization of the consequences of our conclusions to see its efficacy. As mentioned, this has to refer to not only an assumed end, but to various perceptive prospects. Only through such bounds, the problems of the invalidity of our mindsets can be curtailed, and the best of our selves be developed through the way we think, as Dr. Caroline Leaf, in her book *Switch on your brain*, rightly states "As we think, we change the physical nature of our brain. As we consciously direct our thinking and replace them with healthy thoughts."

## The History of Chonga Bon .....

By: Dr. Malem Ningthouja

(continued)  
Why and who chose him?

The king was unanimously chosen as a BJP candidate to fight the Rajya Sabha MP election. The BJP high command decided it based on inputs from various sources. The contentious partisan groups who vied for respective candidature were all silenced. And it served various interests, which are being discussed as follows:

### Socio-cultural tacticians

Covert or overt social and cultural tacticians were active in devising tactics to defend and promote the integrity of the Indian capitalist empire. There is a mixture of nationalism and personal prospect in doing this. Remnants of collective memories, historical consciousness, and concurrent tendencies that may challenge the legitimacy of the empire (the idea of India) must be deconstructed, dismantled, and suppressed. In the context of Manipur, the king and palace harboured a collective memory of controversial annexation and symbolic remnants that act as the rallying point of 'liberation discourse.' For instance, the arbitrary 'merger agreement' of 1949 and the abolition of the privy purse in 1971 did not wipe out the titular symbolism and certain prerogatives of the king. Sanajaoba inherits and enjoys it for years. Many continue to believe in the divine lineage of king and 'traditional' lordship. This believe interplays with an advocated historical consciousness to invoke Manipur patriotism. Some pro-liberation

mass organisations routinely visited the king for reasons revealed in routine 'political rituals.' The demand for 'pre-merger' status, polemics of arbitrary annexation, observance of Manipur independence day on 14<sup>th</sup> August, and all narratives and events to promote Manipur nationalism used the 'king' as a symbolic rallying point. Therefore, there are enough reasons to believe that nationalist tacticians in India suspected the king as the central symbolic figure of conspiracies plotted against India. The symbolic significance had to be completely wiped. The left-overs of 1949 and 1971 have to be completely taken over by absorbing the king into the Indian mainstream electoral politics.

### RSS angle

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) believes in the ideology of *Hindutva* that seeks to establish the hegemony of Hindus and the Hindu way of life in the Indian empire. It is a mixture of religious, cultural, and political objectives backed up by a section of the chauvinist elements within Indian capitalism. While promoting the ideology, they construe the primordial Hindu religio-cultural connection between India and Manipur. They trace the cosmology of Manipur in the pristine *vedantic* rituals and *Mahabharata* epic, i.e., *Hindutva*. The practice of *Hindutva* among a vast chunk of Meeteis in Manipur, which root is generally traced in the royal patronage and forced mass conversion in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, gives RSS an opportunity to recruit local cadres to execute *Hindutva* programmes. They had to overcome the threat posed by

Meetei neo-traditional or revivalist or Sanamahism movement that radically attacked *Hindutva* since the early 1960s. The neo-traditionalist reconversion ritual of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1992 was a big challenge to *Hindutva*, as Sanajaoba's father king Okendrajit on that day denounced *Hindutva* and upheld the worshipping of Lainingthou or Sanamahism as the 'state religion' of Manipur. At the same time Meetei neo-traditional movement had shared objectives with certain pro-liberation protagonists who identified the Indian empire with *Hindutva*. Subsequently, *Hindutva* protagonists changed the strategy of homogenisation and began to advocate that Sanamahism was not a different religion but an integral version of *Hindutva*. The local zealots share the objectives of these socio-cultural tacticians and BJP to influence the king through aids and political supports gradually. They held high the banner of *Hindutva* or Indian empire *vis-à-vis* the rivals. They must play a role in converting the king from an apolitical status to a political figure.

### BJP angle

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the political front of *Hindutva*. It has been taking part in the electoral politics of Manipur since the formation in 1980. However, the party has not been politically predominant until 2014. Indeed, the BJP political wave in Manipur became intensified after it captured Parliamentary power under the leadership of Narendra Modi in 2014. The so-called 'Modi wave' was the predominant theme of BJP electoral campaigns during the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur State Assembly election in 2017.

Usually, in Manipur, the party that holds power in the Parliament has a greater chance of winning the state Assembly election. In the election, BJP secured the second position but managed to capture power as the Congress, which was the largest party, was not given the opportunity to prove its strength to form the government. BJP won the seat of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Election held in 2019. However, BJP has suffered from inner-party instability due to partisan politics, sectarianism, and leadership crises since the formation of the government in 2017. The centralising tendency of the incumbent Chief Minister and alleged favouritism to handpicks in dispensing power and allocation of profitable projects became a rallying point of discontent. Frequently partisan groups visited central leaders and lobbied for a change in leadership and ministerial portfolios. As the crisis or partisan politics could not be resolved, which became more acute on the eve of the Rajya Sabha election, the central leaders might have found it difficult to nominate a candidate from any of the existing inner-party contenders. The central leaders might have thought about nominating someone apparently neutral or someone who had never been at the forefront of lobbying. The king was an obvious choice. In this, the BJP's immediate electoral exigencies served the objectives of these tacticians and RSS. The result is, Sanajaoba was nominated as BJP candidate to the Rajya Sabha MP election.

(to be contd.)

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