

Guv', CM, Speaker and others greets people on 76th Independence Day of India

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

Manipur Governor La. Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Speaker Th. Satyabrata Singh and other Ministers and MLAs have greeted the people of the state on occasion of the 76th Independence Day of India.

"I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of Manipur on the occasion of Independence Day, 2022," Governor La Ganesan wrote.

Every year since 1947, the people of India have been celebrating 15th August as Independence Day remembering and paying homage to the sacrifices of the leaders and millions of their followers of the long freedom struggle towards the goal of attaining freedom. During the last more than 7 decades after independence, India has made great strides in all fields and is targeting to be in the comity of leading nations of the world.

contd. on page 4

Manipur's Independence Day widely celebrated

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

When the whole country is preparing for celebration of the 76th Independence Day, People in Manipur celebrated 75th Independence Day today. Manipur regained its Independence from being a protectorate state from the British regime a day ahead of India got Independence. Later on October 15, 1949 Manipur was merged to the Indian Union and became a part of Indian Union.

It has been 75 years that Manipur regain Independence from British.

Commemorating the day that the erstwhile Manipur regained its independence from the British regime, various organization in the state observed the 75th Independence Day of Manipur by hoisting the Manipur's National flag that was hoisted on this day of 1947 at Kangla.

The All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO) observed the day at its office premises at Kwaikethel here in Imphal. President of the organization Nando Luwang Hoisted the Manipur national flag with Pakhangba picture on the occasion at 7.40 am today.

Other district level organization

associated with AMUCO – viz. UCUBID, ATDUCO, IEDUCO, KADUKOIWDUCO and Meire Paibi Lup also hoisted the Manipur's National flag at their respective areas.

At the office of the United Committee Manipuri (UCM), large number of people gathered to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of Manipur. Manipur's National flag hoisted at Kangla after British left the erstwhile nation was hoisted.

At Moreh town in Tengnoupal district the 76th Independence Day was observed today at Moreh Town Parking area.

President of the Meitei Council Moreh (MCM) Mayanglambam Thoiba Singh hoisted the Manipur's National flag. People attended the occasion shouted slogans hailing Manipur's long life.

Other members of the Meitei Council Moreh, Kha Nongpok Apunba Nupi Lup, All Manipur Students Union & Lainingthou Sanamahi Puya Santhok Lup also attended the Independence Day celebration.

At Jiribam, the Democratic Students Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) celebrated '76th Manipur Ningtam Numit' (76th Manipur Independence

Day) at DESAM office, Jiribam district today under CIRCA, Manipur.

The programme was started by hoisting of Manipur flag by DESAM Jiribam District Council president L. Bilaks Meetei in presence of other members of DESAM and Woman Association for Socio-Economic Development (WASED).

Speaking on the occasion, L. Bilaks Meetei, President, DESAM Jiribam District Council said that on the midnight of 14th August 1947 Manipur got the independence from colonial rule and handover the freedom to the then King of Manipur Maharaja Budhachandra. He added, After the day of independence, Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947 was passed and under the Act, election was conducted for good governance. Today we recall the day by hoisted our flag.

On the other hand the 75th Manipur Independence Day was also observed at the office of All Jiribam United Clubs Association (AJUCA), Jiribam, organised by Observation Committee, 75th Independence Day 2022 Protection & Preservation Committee Manipur (PPCM).

contd. on page 4

Union MoS RK Ranjan calls Manipur scholars for in-depth research on unsung freedom struggle heroes

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Union minister of state for education and external affairs RK Ranjan today urged upon the scholars of the state, particularly the historians, to do an in-depth research on the unsung freedom fighters of Manipur so that they can be included in the composite history of freedom struggle of India.

The Union minister was addressing the integrated communication and outreach programme on Har Ghar Tiranga and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organized by the Imphal regional office of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held at the auditorium of CBC, RO Imphal today.

On the occasion, the Union minister also launched an e-feature on the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day and official music video 'Hey Ima Manipur'.

India is commemorating August

14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. The commemoration was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this date last year.


Union minister RK Ranjan said that the horror and pains of the partition can never be forgotten. Thousands of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence.

The main objective of remembering the horror event is to prevent repetition of such mindless hate and violence, and to mark the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people, he said.

On the other hand, the Union minister said that it is a well-known fact that India got freedom from the British by the concerted efforts of the people. Besides leaders, there were many people who took active roles in the freedom struggle.

The history of the freedom struggle will not be a perfect one without their contributions.

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28th AUG, SUN, 3PM TRAU FC VS ARMY RED FT	30th AUG, TUE, 3PM HYDERABAD FC VS NEROCA FC	1st SEP, THU, 3PM TRAU FC VS CHENNAIYIN FC	3rd SEP, SAT, 3PM ARMY RED FT VS HYDERABAD FC	5th SEP, MON, 6PM NEROCA FC VS CHENNAIYIN FC

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★ Editorial

Amar Yumnam and Amar Chitra Katha: Mole-Mountain and Mountain-Mole

Professor Amar was in the spotlight for a wrong reason. It was simply because he was co-guide of a PhD scholar who worked on insurgency in Manipur. The thesis was submitted to Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi under the main guide Dr. Sadananda Sahoo. The research scholar was Brig Sushil Kumar Sharma. The thesis was published in the book form with the title Complexity Called Manipur: Roots, Perceptions and Reality which was published by Viva Books, New Delhi. The misinformation, the author gives, about the current history of Manipur is that the area of Manipur at the time of her merger with India was only 700 sq miles; meaning hill areas were not part of Manipur before and at the time of Merger Agreement. After three years of the publication of this book, Shri N Biren came to know this false claim. He was furious because of the misinformation of historical events in the thesis or book; however his anger was rather directed towards Professor Amar than to the research scholar or the author of the book. Honorable Chief Minister of Manipur expressed his anguish in a public speech. The people of Manipur understood his feeling; he was so hurt that he attacked the nearest and most visible one, Prof Amar Yumnam. We should know that such political narrative claiming Manipur means only valley has its own political interests. The motive of one Brigadier of Indian Army spreading such a narrative could not be taken very lightly because the narrative is very much linked with various ethnic politics in Manipur. Did he take a side or use this narrative to disturb the ethnic relation in the State?

Shri N Biren, being a true patriot, could not tolerate such a narrative and the politics of misinformation. At this juncture, therefore, what we can imagine is Chief Minister's prompt action against the book, rather than against the process how a PhD degree was conferred to one research scholar. The opinion of the research scholar could not be overruled by the guide or co-guide. It is universal rule and is known to all the academicians. The war should be on the idea of the author rather than the process of conferring PhD degree by one or another University. The book in which the idea is spread, should be banned. So cry for blood for one retired professor who was just a co-guide is not the proper action; the State and Chief Minister should take up to ban the book. The issue how one co-guide did not see the controversial line is a mere mole out of which one cannot make a mountain. We should see that the mountain is the idea of misinforming the historical facts; the mountain is the narrative that Manipur was never a sovereign state and whose area was only 700 square miles. Let us fight the idea; let us stand against the politics of misinformation. We need to work against such narratives, originated somewhere and are spread by some other agents.

Another manifestation of such a narrative and of such politics of misinformation is belittling the historical personalities of Manipur. The depiction of Manipur's national hero, Paona Brajabasi, in a comic book published in Amar Chitra Katha series, Tribal Leaders of Freedom Struggle should also be considered as an example. It was published in the month of August when the State pay homage to all the war heroes of the State. Unfortunately, the comic was sponsored by Ministry of Culture, Government of India, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The comic book tries to reduce the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 to a tribal revolt or tribal resistance. Everyone knows it was a full scale war, declared by British Crown. The war was fought tirelessly and fearlessly by many hundred patriots of Manipur to defend the national sovereignty. The war was to defend Manipur's sovereignty from the colonial expansionism of the British. The fight was for a sovereign state. They died in the name of a state. The Amar Chitra Katha's mistake is not a comic matter; it should be examined as a deliberate move of misinformation of Manipur's history and her position in pre-colonial international relation in Indo-Burma Region. If we are proud of having been fighting 1891 War, of our brave hearts including Paona Brajabasi, of our leaders like Tikendrajit, Thangal, King Kulachandra, then we should take the book, the comic and the politics of misinformation very seriously. The politics of misinformation is reflected in the book, coated with intellectual freedom; the same is again reflected in a comic form that can make people internalize the idea of a reduced Manipur. The first one reduces Manipur's geographical and international position in pre-colonial and post-colonial periods, opposing Shri N Biren's idea of 'oneness of Manipur'. The second is the reduction of social space among the equals. Both play the same game of misinformation of Manipur's long historical process.

Moreover, one will see India cannot think beyond their caste-tribe classification. The Government of India is trying to classify the freedom fighters into tribal and non-tribal. Freedom fighters are all equals. Then, what is need of such a classification, giving Jhansi Rani a superior position and Birsa Munda a tribal status in the history of Indian Freedom Struggle? This clearly shows Indian intellectuals' obsession of tribe-caste bias. With the intrinsic bias in the minds of Indian intellectuals, the dirty politics of misinformation is spread in various forms, ways and manners. Manipur needs to fight this politics for the sake of 'oneness of Manipur' and her glory historical process. Let us fight against the wrong historiographies; Manipur is not a mosaic of ethnic groups; it is a whole evolved out of long historical process. This process is never ended with the merger of the State with India on 15 October 1949. In one sentence, the book, the comic and the politics of misinformation should be banned and Chief Minister of Manipur should be the Thangal General in this War. We should not make mountains out of the moles; and the mountains should not be neglected as moles.

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Dare to Rise: The story of Manipur in 1891

By: Kakchingtabam Ruhinikumar Sharma

Introduction

Manipur was an ancient and independent kingdom sandwiched between Indian sub-continent and South East Asia. From a very early period, Manipur was strategically located and thus received the imprints of both Indic and Sinic culture as she stood at the centre of these two great civilisations. Historically speaking, Manipur has never been a part of Indian Union till 1949. Manipur became part of India after signing a merger agreement on September 21, 1949, between the representatives of the government of India and Bodhchandra Singh, the last Maharaja of Manipur. Finally she became a part of Indian Union on 15th October, 1949 when the administration of this kingdom was taken over. However she became a native state of British Indian Empire consequent upon her defeat in the infamous Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. This war evoked widespread interest about Manipur in every major parts of the world. Manipur was the last place where the British Indian government was engaged in an armed conflict in the sub-continent. Considering the unique nature of Anglo-Manipuri relationship, the vanquished kingdom was not annexed to British India, re-established the kingship under their supervision. Thus Manipur retained her own government under a system known as indirect rule. This system of government remained in the kingdom till the sub-continent got independence on 15th August, 1947.

The armed conflict between the kingdom of Manipur and British had been one of the major events widely discussed in the colonial world. A considerable amount of time had been devoted in both houses of British Parliament during the months of May-June, 1891 and was widely reported in the media. However, there was almost none to tell the Manipur side of the story except for the vain effort of the barrister Mano Mohan Ghose of the Calcutta High Court. The cause of the conflict was the undue interference of the British in the affairs of the kingdom who was on friendly terms with the former for about seven decades. Their sudden invasion at the Manipur palace on

24th March, 1891 where Manipur got the upper hand resulted in a failed parley between the two to resolve the conflict. It produced no result and led to the execution of high ranking British officials including the Chief Commissioner of Assam and the British resident in the state. The British attempt to act as Raj makers in the state got a severe rebuff from the freedom loving Manipuris who was not afraid of going into war a number of times against her mighty and neighbouring kingdom of Burma during the eighteenth and early parts of nineteenth centuries. All along Manipur had acted as a trustworthy friend and ally of the British in protecting her interests in the north eastern frontier. The Manipuris were charged with committing the heinous crime of murder and waging war against the Queen Empress of India. Yet the plain fact that was lost sight of by the general public at that time was that the Manipuris were trying to defend the freedom and sovereignty of the kingdom which they had won after so many hardships against Burma. It was the British who tried to trample upon the independence of a unsuspecting ally. This was amply shown by the statement of Tikendrajit Bir Singh, the affectionate and most popular person whom the British considered as their arch enemy- "Sahep, we do not accept a word of what you have said...you do not uphold justice. What you have done is not right, even more it was not a just and humane action in the way you carried out the whole attack. We have no trust in you." (recorded in Cheitharol Kumbaba, the royal chronicle of Manipur). Thus from the Manipuri point of view, it was the British who turned aggressor, and in such a situation Manipur had to defend her sovereignty whatever the outcome may be.

To avenge for the disaster of their own doings and to save face, the authorities of the British India government declared war against Manipur in April, 1891. A large force was sent to Manipur from three sides, viz., Kohima, Silchar and Tammu. It was a foregone conclusion for the Manipuris to face defeat as they do not have the resources to match the fire power of

the imperialists. Yet the Manipuris fought gallantly knowing well that the sovereignty of this kingdom is numbered. Yaishkullakpa, Senggoisana, Paona Brajabasi and many other patriotic Manipuris went down fighting against the enemy and made supreme sacrifices for their motherland. The most decisive battle for Manipur's independence took place at Khongjom which is now regarded as a pilgrimage by the Manipuris. The lamentable, yet the heroic saga of Manipur's fight against the British imperialists are well recorded in a popular ballad form known as Khongjom Parva. The beauty of the Anglo-Manipuri War is that many sons of the hills also took part in the war to protect the sovereignty of the kingdom. The name of Chirai Thangal who went to the gallows with head held high need to be recorded in the hall of fame of martyrs.

The invading British forces occupied Kangle, the royal palace and symbol of Manipur's sovereignty on 27th April, 1891. In the subsequent developments the royal princes and important nobles of the country who took part in defence of the kingdom were rounded up one after another, put to trial where none of the accused was allowed to engage professional defence counsel. Some of them were awarded capital punishment and others given sentence of life imprisonment. Those awarded life imprisonment were exiled and deported to Kala Pani at the Andaman to spend the rests of their life including the deposed king Kullachandra. The trial of the Manipuris was described as mockery of justice and fair play. The manner in which the trial was conducted, and the legality in the composition of the court of enquiry to conduct the trial was questioned in media circles and in the British parliament as well. But the adage of 'might is right' was fully practised by the imperialists. Their media was so powerful that the Manipuris were branded as treacherous, barbaric and blood thirsty people. Thus a heroic saga of a spirited community was painted in the eyes of world as a bunch of rebellious and uncivilised trouble mongers. As such, the story

of Manipur's war of independence finds little or no mention in the history of India's struggle for independence. The story of many of those patriotic soldiers who were forced out of their motherland remains unsung and unheard till today even in their birth place.

Even though Manipur was defeated in the war, yet the country was not directly annexed into the British Empire. She was put under a system known as 'indirect rule' by restoring the monarchy. Through this system of indirect rule, the British colonial authorities could extend their influence without the economic and political costs of direct annexation. If there was any necessity for affecting changes, it was done in the name of the king of Manipur. In simple words, the colonial authorities exercised authority without responsibility. Native rule was re-introduced in the state by appointing Churachand Singh a young boy of about five years old and a great grandson of Nar Singh (1844-1850) the late king of Manipur. During the minority of Churachand, Mr. H.St.P. Maxwell, the British political agent in Manipur, carried out administration of the state was carried out in the name of the king. This system of administration came to be known as regency administration. Thus, regency administration operated in the state from 1891 to 1907 and this period was fully utilized by the colonial administration for making all major decisions. Taking advantage of this position, several changes were also introduced in the administrative set up of this native state, which the raja even after his formal installation of the gaddi of Manipur with full power would find it impossible to change. During this regency period, Maxwell, the political agent and superintendent of the state dictated by imperial interests introduced a number of new socio-economic measures which affected the people in different ways. The unique history of Manipur daring to rise against the British authorities need to be told among the younger generations time and again.

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Understanding the true meaning of Independence during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

By: Dr. Mohan Bhagawat

armed struggles for freedom kept strengthening, efforts were also undertaken to cleanse the society of social evils and to awaken the society to get organized to work with collective interest.

Thanks to these relentless efforts, on 15th August 1947, we arrived at a position to self-govern our land as per our will, as per our wish, as per our choice, by our very own people. From here on, we bid adieu to the British rulers and took control of running, operating, and administering our nation.

So, it is only appropriate and obvious, we relish this festive mood with enthusiasm and an atmosphere of celebrations as our motherland completes 75 years of independence.

During this extended & protracted freedom battle, a significant number of people, who are real heroes, sacrificed everything including their lives. Their stories should be brought out and spread across society for the society to imbibe, adopt and be inspired by their character, sense of patriotism and their devotion towards motherland. (There were many small and big incidents, small and big events, small and big acts that left an everlasting impact on our vast nation)

The purpose, resolutions and the duties they worked for should be remembered and such focus rejuvena-

tion ought to be dedicated to them. **Why does the country need Swarajya?**

Why can't a county be controlled by an alien nation that does good for the citizens of the country and for the well-being of the nation?

Self-rule and national expression are fundamental for any society. Thus, the need for freedom provides instinctive inspiration. A country can be governed well only when it's free and can decide for itself.

Swami Vivekananda once said, "Every nation takes birth and then it rises to contribute something meaningful to the life of the world." To contribute to anything, the nation must be both free and capable at the same time. These are Swami and thus essential.

Like Swami Vivekananda, several great people, who worked for the awakening the people of India and inspired the armed and unarmed revolution for the freedom movement, have described in their own ways why it is not only essential to achieve freedom but also how to handle and preserve it.

The revered Rabindra Nath Tagore, through his famous poem 'Chitra jetha bhayshunya, Unnat jatou shir' and Mahatma Gandhi, through his 'Hind-Swaraj' quotes elaborated on concepts about free Bharat. Freedom fighter Veer Savarkar in his famous Swatantra Devi Aarti spoke about col-

lective well-being and sublime excellence. We also can't miss out on the contribution and two famous speeches of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, where he spoke of the meaning, purpose, and reasoning of freedom and the duties every bharatiya should follow and pursue to build a great nation.

In line with the celebrations of Amrit Mahotsava, we should also introspect that if the very purpose of freedom was to achieve self-reliance, then, in 75 years, is Bharat completely self-reliant as yet?

If Bharat has to contribute meaningfully to the world, does it first need to stand on its own feet wholesomely, and has Bharat attained self-dependence across all spheres?

In 1947, we took an oath of making Bharat the greatest and bringing an era where Bharat will show the light, the path, and lead the rest of the world. But, for that, we need clarity, specificity, and a sense of direction in both our thoughts and actions.

The greatest characteristic of Bharat's eternal vision, its thoughts, and its culture is oneness, wholeness, sameness, sampooma. This is the message it sends to the world by its conduct. Oneness is natural, free of conflict, all-inclusive, based on experienced, logical and scientific truth and harmony that can sustain forever.

contd. on page 3

India sees slight dip in COVID-19 tally with 14,092 new cases in last 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, August 14:

India on Sunday saw a slight decline in the Covid cases as it reported 14,092 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours with its active caseload standing at 1,16,861, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed.

According to the Health

Ministry, the country had logged 15,815 new COVID cases in its previous 24 hours with a daily case positivity rate of 4.36 per cent.

The Ministry informed that the active caseload of the country stood at 0.26 per cent while its recovery rate was 98.54 per cent with 16,454 recoveries in the last 24 hours, with which the total number of

people who recovered from the infection rose to 4,36,09,566.

The Ministry further informed that the current Daily Positivity Rate stands at 3.69 per cent, while its Weekly Positivity Rate is 4.57 per cent.

Ever since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry has conducted 88.02 crore Covid tests, so far, of which 3,81,861 were con-

ducted in the last 24 hours alone.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive, a total of 207.99 crore vaccine doses (93.78cr Second Dose and 12.07cr Precaution Dose) have been administered across the country, so far. In the last 24 hours, 28,01,457 doses of Covid vaccines were jabbed, said the Union Ministry.

Heritage Run Conducted by Indian Navy in Mumbai

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Aug 13:

Over 6000 citizens participated in a one-of-its-kind Heritage Run organized by the Indian Navy, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence and as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' festivities, in Mumbai on Saturday.

The event comprised of a 10 km 'Varuna Run' and a 5 km 'Samudra Run' covering 32 and 19-way points of historic interest respectively in South Mumbai. The event was jointly flagged off by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, and Charu Singh, President, Navy

Wives Welfare Association (Western Region).

The participants ran along a historical route through South Mumbai's heritage precinct that aptly showcased the vibrant legacy of the city. The Indian Navy Mumbai Heritage Run commenced at the Lion Gate, Naval Dockyard, and took the participants along iconic buildings like Asiatic Library, Ballard Estate, CSMT, BMC HQ, Flora Fountain, High Court, Marine Drive, and culminated at the Gateway of India. An engaging first-of-a-kind 'Companion Mobile App' created especially for this event narrated relevant nuggets of information as the participants ran along significant landmarks, an Indian Navy statement said.

The event concluded with a flypast by two Navy helicopters that signalled the culmination of a grand event amidst much cheer and fanfare at the iconic Gateway of India.

The FOC-in-C WNC complimented both Naval and civilian participants for displaying patriotism, solidarity, and enthusiasm towards preserving, protecting, and celebrating the city's rich history and thanked all the associate partners who helped the Navy in conducting an event of this magnitude in a manner befitting the joyous occasion of 75 years of independence. He also reiterated that this maiden Heritage Run is a novel one as it aims to promote the heritage sites of the city and also serves

to strengthen the Navy's bonds with the citizens of Mumbai.

The Admiral also announced that the Western Naval Command will be conducting the Navy Half Marathon on November 20. He also unveiled the logo for this much-awaited yearly activity. The event is intended to be bigger and better and has a much-improved race-day experience.

In another development, a rally was organized by Mahatma Phule Education Trust in collaboration with DSO Dharavi under the leadership of former MLA Baburao Mane in Dharavi, in Central Mumbai on Friday on the eve of Independence Day. Over 1500 school and college students participated in the rally.

7 organization jointly observed Patriots Day at JN Dance Academy



IT News
Imphal, August 14:

Seven Organization jointly organized Patriots Day and it was observed yesterday at JN Dance Academy, Auditorium, Imphal. Karam Shyam, MLA, Langthabal AC and Dilip Mayengbam, president of Asheilup as Chief Guest and President respectively.

The Seven Organization jointly tribute and dedicate the book "Manipur Khoirrol da Khongjom Lan" to legendary hero of Manipur. This book was released by Chief Guest of the observation function MLA Karam Shyam, Langthabal AC.

Shireng Seiding was held as the part of Patriot day. The presidium members of this Shireng Seiding were Dr. Laishram Shashikumar of Nongchup Haram Khorjei Lup (NOHAKOL), Ranjit Singh of

Former president of SHEIPAL, Dilip Mayengbam, president Asheilup, Nirmala Rajkumari President of Progressive Writer Association, Dr. Chingngangbam Chandrakala president of Iramdang Miyang Khorjei Lup (IMAKOL), Dr.S.Ibunhochohba president of Seirng ba shinggi apunba Lup and Tongbram Amrajit president of Sahitya Thoubal Lup (Shathou Lup).

Karam Shyam, MLA, Langthabal AC stated that we known about the history of Manipur is only because of our writer presentation. So, we need to support and respect to our writer because every historic moment of our Manipur like Chahi Taret Khundakpa should know of our writer presentation. He said that our writer should need to write our future generations.

Contd. from Page 2

Understanding the true meaning of Independence...

Diversity is a mere expression of unity and not an expression of differences. For being one, one need not be the same. If one forces it, then it leads to discord and disharmony. We need to understand and respect each other's differences and take them all along to build a unified society.

We are all dedicated sons of Maa Bharati. It is what connects us. Our eternal culture of being kind, friendly, loving with affinity gives rise to knowledge in our hearts. From the holiness of one's heart to the cleanliness of nature, this purity gives rise to knowledge and wisdom. From ancient and historic times, our forefathers have been guiding us to progress, proceed and move ahead on this path of knowledge.

Understanding our commonality of being sons of the same soil, respecting the differences, leaving selfish attitudes behind, avoiding any discrimination and nation first approach in every context is the need of the hour. The entire society should come together and stand up with such beliefs.

Due to the passage of time, certain evils continue to plague our society - discrimination, petty selfishness, etc. These arise from the desire for worldly benefits, for wealth, and for materialistic gratification, etc., and complicit our mind, words, and deeds.

To be free from these entanglements, one has to lead an exemplary life of good conduct. Such enlightened souls (examples) help in building equitable societies. And such societies that are equitable and free from exploitation create an inner force that protects freedom.

There are enough agencies, powers, and people who are working in their selfish interests to divide society by confusing, provoking, or creating conflicts amongst various sections of the society. These groups operate not only within the country but also from outside the country. Only when the society is alert, well-organized and strong it can win over such forces that are bent to break it or divide it.

We must develop and establish constant and transparent communication channels within every single stratum of society. In a free and democratic coun-

try, citizens have the right to choose and elect their representatives for themselves. Such representatives should pursue the work in the overall interest of the country to the best of their ability and discretion and should prefer national interest above the ideology of the parties. They must maintain general knowledge of the law, constitution, civil discipline and its faithful observance is most essential for a successful democracy. However, in recent times, some of these virtues have deteriorated. The erosion caused by it is due to the gimmicks of politics that are present in front of all of us.

During disputes among people, speech incontinence (which is now a general rule in social media) to prove bravery is also one of the major reasons why politics is moving away from the nation to parties; and from parties to just degrading others. Every one of us, including the leadership, should get away from such conduct and maintain the discipline of citizenship. The rule of law has to be followed and an atmosphere of respect has to be created.

Any kind of change anywhere in the world can only be brought about when society itself is capable, competent and effective. No change can exist over a long time if society is weak, vulnerable or fragile.

For the society to develop a system based on "Swa" by taking the good things in both the age-old system and the prevailing system it has to have four basic qualities - clear knowledge of "Swa", patriotism, individual and societal discipline and a sense of unity.

Superior materialistic knowledge, high quality skills, good governance, administration etc., will only help that society and country which stands united. At this time of celebrating 'Azadika Amrit Mahotsava', which we have achieved through great sacrifices and hardships, we have to continue to work hard with the same amount of dedication to take India to the pinnacle of its glory.

Let us accelerate on this journey with enthusiasm, clarity, and determination.

(The author is Sarsangchhalak, RSS)

Contd. from yesterday

Tikendrajit – The Lion of Manipur (An excerpt from the writings of Dr. Lokendra Arambam)

The English never acquired Manipur by conquest, but that our government entered into certain treaties with the former rulers of Manipur whereby certain amount of protection was promised in Manipur on certain conditions. Manipur paid no tribute to the English. The state has all along been governed by its own laws; the raja of Manipur exercising sovereign authority over its subjects. The state has its own executive, which is independent of the British Government. No doubt the Government has by treaty protected the ruler of Manipur from foreign invasion, and since the time of Chandrakirti Singh accorded to the Raja support, to enable him to resist effectively any internal rising.....

Do these facts tend to destroy the character of Manipur as a sovereign state? It is scarcely necessary to point out the sovereignty of a particular state is not impaired by its occasional obedience to the commands of other states, or even the habitual influence exercised by them over its councils. It is only when this obedience, or this influence, assumes the form of express compact, that the sovereignty of the state inferior in power is legally affected by its connection with the other.

Treaties of unequal alliance freely contracted between independent states do not impair their sovereignty. Treaties of unequal alliance guarantee mediation and protection may have the effect of limiting and qualifying in the sovereignty, according to the stipulations of the treaties. Manipur was not a lower level than the semi-sovereign states of which European History furnishes several instances (The Appeals of the Manipur Princes by Manomohan Ghose.

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Manipur – A Geo-strategic Victim of the Operation of Empire.

The Manipur episode of the defiance against the pride and glory of the world's biggest empire hurt Britain deeply. The disaster of the sudden murder of four British military officials at a strange, exotic enclave contiguous to the imperial territory, was followed by the symbolic destruction of the vestiges of the empire i.e. the existence of telegraph lines and offices being destroyed. The telegram officers being murdered, a sanatorium burned down and British graves desecrated. As reprisal the Government of British India sent three columns within a fortnight, destroyed opposition on all three fronts, looted the royal palace, razed it to the ground to make way for a permanent military camp. The empire restored its authority, but the event became a scandal in the nooks and corners of the empire. The House of Commons and the House of Lords debated the event in all their heat and temper. Charges and counter charges were mutually exchanged in all the interstices of the Empire, of the values of western civilization, of the roles and responsibilities of the representatives, their action and behaviour in times of crisis, of all intents and purposes, the sole defence of the Government of India in the sordid episode was succinctly put in the House of Commons by Sir John Horst, Under-Secretary of State for India who spoke that the Senapati was removed for the simple reason that he was 'an able man intriguing against the Paramount Power'. In the words of Caroline Keen 'In an extra-ordi-

nary critical statement for the second most senior official at the India office, Sir John maintained that the Government of India was merely acting in accordance with their customary policy of cutting down the tall poppies, setting aside the man at ability and strong character in native states in favour of the mediocre or incapable' (Caroline Keen 2015, P.140).

Tikendrajit, therefore, was the sole motif for the imperial action against Manipur. He was to be hanged in front of the public, along with his mentor the old General Thangal, with whom Tikendrajit was reported to have quarrelled on the decision to execute the Sahibs. The Queen Victoria, the empress of India was an avid follower of the Manipur story, as reported in the newspapers and debated in the two houses of Parliament. She gave a private reception to Mrs. Grimwood in the Windsor castle on July 1, after her escape from Manipur, sympathized with her plight in the loss of a fond husband, and heard her admiring estimate of the character of Tikendrajit. She was not happy with the actions of ignorance and imprudence of the authorities of Calcutta in the whole affair.

Manomohan Ghose's 'The Appeal of the Manipur Princes' was published in July in London in 1891, along with a transcript of the trials of the Senapati and the Regent, and when the findings of the court were communicated to Queen Victoria, she immediately despatched a telegram to Lord Cross, the Secretary of State for India "Trust Senapati will not be executed. He was not found guilty of murder and the effect is sure to be bad in India" (Caroline Keen. Ibid p. 158).

This was on the 1st of August 1891, twelve days before the hanging of Tikendrajit at Imphal. On the 8th of August, Lord Cross informed her of the Government of India's decision that the Viceroy (Lord Landsdowne) had commuted the sentences in the case of the Regent and Angousana, but the sentence in the case of Tikendrajit had been confirmed. On the 12th August, Manomohan Ghose himself appealed directly to the Queen for clemency. The Queen was reported to have sent a telegram to Lord Landsdowne 'it was possible! Lord Landsdowne replied on the same day. 'Your Majesty's telegram on 12th I entertain no doubt commutating of sentence would be a grave public misfortune, and I regard as now absolutely impossible' (Quoted by C. Keen P. 159).

Caroline Keen quotes again the letter that Lord Landsdowne wrote back to the Queen after the telegram, 'the case was not one for the extension of your Majesty's clemency. The Senapati was the prime mover, both in conspiracy which led to the downfall of the lawful ruler of the state, and in the rebellion which led to the massacre. Your Majesty will have noticed that while the fighting was in progress on the 24th, and at a time when it was impossible to contend that the Senapati was merely acting in self-defence, he brought up guns from their position inside the palace, to a position on the outer wall, from which, at a distance of a few yards, fire was opened up on the British Residency, a defenceless building, which at the time contained several wounded men, and a English lady..... it would be impossible to show mercy to one convicted of these crimes

without greatly endangering our supremacy in this country'. (Ibid P. 160).

The correspondences between the Queen Empress and the Viceroy Lord Landsdowne reflect the inner dynamics of the operation of the British empire, that Manipur was geographically in the Indian sub-continent, but it was in fact an independent Asiatic state, not politically dependent on the same. However the geo-politics of the Empire over-ruled all considerations, and Lord Landsdowne's was the voice of the real politik of the empire, though the Queen represented the conscience of the western civilization. Lord Landsdowne was hell bent in safeguarding the territory of British India by maintaining a firm hold on frontier states such as Sikkim, Kashmir and Manipur to be used as buffer zones against foreign aggressors. Any unrest within Manipur was perceived as a threat to such a strategy (C. Keen 2012 P. 147).

Many scholars, mostly foreign and the international media reported that Manipur was a province of British Assam. Indian newspapers like the Amrita Bazar Patrika differed, and noticed Manipur's independence in the 19th century. As a princely state, Manipur did not belong to the family of the princely states of British India. The formal entry into the scheme was only in 1921, when the Chambers of the Princes were constituted in that year. Manipur issued Passports to Indians or Nepalis till 1950. When Manipur became a part of India since 1949, it was removed.

This article is a revised and updated version from a talk given by the author in the All India Radio Imphal on the 23rd March 2017.

CM N. Biren Singh flags off Bike rallies celebrating 75 years of Independence



IT News
Imphal, August 14:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh flagged off two Motor Bike Rallies in celebration of 75 years of Independence, today from Hapta Kangeibung to Moirang and Mao.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh welcomed the riders from different rider groups participating in the bike rally for Mao and said the

riders will spread the message of India's Independence and the people's responsibility towards building unity in the country. The Chief Minister further prayed for the safe return of the riders.

He also said that the nation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is celebrating the country's 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and remembering the sacrifices of

our people and leaders in their effort to achieve independence.

The second rally will ride till INA Martyrs' Memorial complex at Moirang. N. Biren Singh said welcoming the second group of riders participating in the Imphal-Moirang rally.

Further reminding the gathering of the sacrifices and contributions made by the many leaders and public in the fight against British

for India's Independence, the Chief Minister called on all to help in building a strong and united India.

DGP Manipur, P. Doungel said whatever we do today, becomes an example for unity as well as showing the power of youth. The power of youth that is channelized in the correct manner and that is used in a way that is befitting for the State as well as our community.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led the second rally on a motor-bike, while Forest and Environment Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh led riders from altogether 22 riders groups in the rally to Mao. Mementos were also distributed to the rider groups.

The rallies are organised by the Home Department in celebration of the 75 years of Independence as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The flagging off ceremony was also attended by Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, high ranking Police officials, among others.

7 suspected PLA cadres arrested ahead of Independence Day celebration

IT News
Thoubal, August 14:

Seven armed militants of the banned People's Liberation Army (PLA) were arrested from different parts of Manipur ahead of Independence Day, police said on Sunday.

The Assam Rifles received inputs on Saturday morning about a plot to target government installations and security forces with explosives during the Independence Day celebrations, Superintendent of Police of Thoubal district H. Jogeshchandra said at a press

conference.

"A joint team of Thoubal district police and 16 Assam Rifles rushed to Yairipok Bazaar, cordoned off the area and began a search operation," he said.

"Similar operations were also carried out at multiple places in Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching and Thoubal districts," he said.

The security forces arrested seven militants, and also held a minor with weapons and explosives, the officer said.

"Following investigations,

it was revealed they have been targeting non-locals in the valley districts, and were involved in the killing of two non-locals in June and July at Kakching and Andro Huikap, respectively," he said.

A 9 mm pistol with magazine, a Beretta pistol with magazine, 35 live 9 mm rounds and two hand grenades were seized, Jogeshchandra said.

The operation is continuing in different parts of the state ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, police said, adding that security has been beefed up.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign continues in Kakching

IT News
Kakching, August 14:

To commemorate 75 years of India's Independence and as part of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), District Administration, Kakching today organised Mass Rally as a part of Har Ghar Tiranga on the eve of

the 76th Independence Day.

The rally carried out by a District Administration started from DC Complex Kakching to Kakching bazaar and wind up to the starting point.

The mass rally was participated by DC Kakching, Somorjit Salam, IAS, SP, Kakching Shrey Vats, IPS

Staff of DC office, District Level Officers and their staff, Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs and Local Clubs. Earlier, ICDS project, Kakching hoisted National flag in their office today. Mentioned may be made that National flags were hoisted in various institutions, government offices.

Contd. from Page 1

Guv', CM, Speaker and others greets

Though major progress has been made in most of the socio-economic development areas all over the country, challenges still remain to be tackled. The technological strides have been made to ensure that no citizen is left hungry or illiterate and progress is equitable.

Various measures have been taken on these fronts continuously. Every one today must take a pledge to work that these efforts bear fruit so that all are provided with the support they need for sustenance and become responsible citizens. I sincerely urge all citizens to work together and bring emotional integrity and ensure that every part of the country is developed equally so that there is no sense of discrimination. I also sincerely appeal to

all the citizens of the State to hoist National Flag in their respective residences for three days - 13th to 15th August and believe that all the citizens will certainly comply with the appeal, the governor wrote.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh wrote, "It is indeed a moment of immense pride and happiness to be an Indian as our Country will complete its 75 years of Independence on this 15th August 2022."

The chief Minister further stated that for the past more than one year, the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements are being celebrated and commemorated across the country under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Mahotsav

was launched on 12th March 2021 with five aspects - Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75. This year, the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign was also initiated to inspire every Indian to hoist the national flag, a symbol of national pride, at their homes as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly, Th. Satyabrata Singh, Minister Textiles, Commerce and Industry & Co-operation Nemcha Kipgen, Minister Water Resources & Relief and Disaster Management Awangbow Newmai, Minister Education, Law & Legislative Affairs among others also greets the people wishing for a prosperous Independence Day.

KCP observed 13th August Patriots Day

IT News
Imphal, August 14:

Proscribed group Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) observed Patriots Day and the 18th anniversary of the Red Army at its CHQ, GHQ, 131 Battalion, Training Centre, and Mobile Unit.

The observance at the 131st Battalion of the group was attended by the adjutant of MYL L Ingba, Chief of Army Staff of MFL H Ibomcha, CO 1st Battalion of MYL S Dhana, and G-3 of MFL M Robin as presidium members.

L Ingba lighted the ceremonial lamp, and H Ibomcha hoisted the flag of MFL. Tributes were paid to those who laid their lives for the



motherland in the 1891 Anglo-Manipur war and those armies of the group

who made the supreme sacrifice in its struggle. Adjutant of 131 Battalion

S Saiyon presented the speech of the Military Affairs Committee of the group.

Monthly pension to the inmates distributed

IT News
Imphal, August 14:

The Monthly Pension to all the inmates of Langol Old Age Home for the month of August has been distributed in a solemn function held at the Home, Langol, Imphal West District Manipur today. The Monthly Pension has been distributed under the aegis of Thounaojam Chaoba Memorial Charitable Trust, Singamei Thongam Leikai, Imphal West District, Manipur under the exclusive sponsorship of Thounaojam Romen Singh, the Managing Trustee of the Trust.

The Monthly Pension Distribution is being done to the Homes which do not get any benefit from the Government so far. Besides distributing the Monthly Pensions every month, They have been provided some of the needful items so as to ease out their grievances in their day today lives.

The Trust is trying to distribute the Chief Minister G. Hakselji Tengbang (CMHT) Cards only to get governmental benefits when they are sick

as there is a lot of trouble in treating themselves when they are lying on the bed because of illness. The Founder of the Home is very much worried about when there is illness among themselves.

For giving them CMHT Cards, the Trust had already requested the Health Authority to issue it at the earliest, though the Health Authority gives nod to issue the Cards, the hurdle is that there is no Aadhaar Cards for them to take the opportunity. So the Trust in collaboration with the Authority, Aadhaar enrolment for all the inmates of the Home has been done at the same. Some of them get their Aadhaar Cards. Some of them are waiting for it. When it arrives, the Trust will pursue the Health Authority to issue the Health Cards so that they can avail the benefits of treatment in the hospitals.

Speaking on the occasion, Thounaojam Romen Singh, the Managing Trustee of the Trust said that his sole responsibility is to serve the down trodden people of the State and the people staying

in such Homes. He said that before achieving the benefits of the Health Cards, the Trust is trying to do a Free Health Camp at the Home with the Medical Team of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). For this, he requested the Director of RIMS, Prof. A. Shanta Singh to do the same. The bonafide Director agreed his proposal and assured to do it whenever the Trust urges. The Director also thanked Mr. Romen Singh for taking up such initiatives. The Director also assured that he will provide all the services related to the health facilities for such needy persons.

Romen Singh further said that the Trust is now searching for other Homes and Centres for any further course of actions for help to those Homes which do not get any governmental benefits in running the same. The Trust is working day and night in searching of such Homes and Centres so that it can help and serve such the down trodden people of the State. Though the pace is sometimes slower down due to the pre-

vailing situation of Covid-19 Pandemic in the State. Whenever it improves, the Pace will move faster, Romen Singh assured.

In further course of actions, the Trust has identified a number of seventeen old aged persons both male and female residing at Phubala, Bishnupur District, Manipur. The Trust initiates Pension Schemes for the said aged ones. The Pension Distribution Ceremony will be held on the 25th of this month onwards. Thinking that the Trust provides Pensions to old aged, some philanthropists urged the Trust to initiate Pension Scheme for them, thus the Trust initiates the Scheme for them. When the Trust enquired of their grievances, the old aged told the team of the Trust that some persons collected Aadhaar Cards from them in the sense that they will provide Monthly Pensions under the Government Scheme but they cannot avail the benefits as of now. So, the Trust will provide Monthly Pensions from this month onwards.

Manipur's Independence Day....

The flag was hoisted by Maipakana Mangang, President, All Jiribam United Clubs Association in presence of N. Sadananda Meitei, President, Jiri Development Organization (JDO), Jiribam and other representatives of various civil soci-

ety organisations and student bodies of Jiribam.

The programme was attended by M. Maipakana Mangang, President, All Jiribam United Clubs Association; N. Sadananda Meitei, President, Jiri Development Organization; G

Ibholal Sharma, General Secretary, IPSA Jiribam; S. Sushila Devi, President, All Jiribam Meira Paibi; A. Ashangbi Devi, President, JIMPAL; O. Thoibi, President, WWOK and Th. Jini Devi, President, JIMWAL shared the dais as a presidium members.

Union MoS RK Ranjan calls Manipur scholars for in-depth research....

In the state too, there are a lot of unsung freedom fighters who were not known to the people of today's generation. Many people who revolted against the British got killed in Manipur, in the present state of Mizoram, Nagaland, etc.

Only a few of them were remembered by today's generation. So, the scholars, particularly historians of the region, need to do an in-depth research in this field.

"I humbly appeal to the scholars, particularly historians, to identify the unsung heroes of the freedom struggle and include them in the composite history of India," he said.

"The Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji

wants a composite history of freedom struggle, not a dynastic based history," he said.

In his speech, the Union minister further said that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign was an initiative of the Central government to instill the feeling of patriotism to every citizen of the country, said Union minister of state for education and external affairs RK Ranjan Singh, in a speech on Sunday.

Singh observed that this campaign of putting tricolor at their homes will awaken patriotism in every heart. The celebration of Independence Day is not for the ministers, MLAs and government employees. It is for all the countrymen and they should also join the celebration of the day by hoist-

ing the national flag in their respective home, he said. The duties of the ministers and government employees are to spread the message of the Independence Day to the citizens. The value of celebration of the day lies with the people.

Nangom Uttam Director, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Manipur graced the occasion as Guest of honour and Dr Engam Pame, Director, Press Information Bureau preside over the function. N. Malemsanba Meitei, Asst. Professor of G.P. Women's College as resource person on the Occasion, officials of Central Bureau of Communication, Press Information Bureau and other dignitaries also attended the function.