

# International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

## *Golden Research Thoughts*

Chief Editor  
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

---

Publisher  
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor  
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary  
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### Regional Editor

Manichander Thammishetty  
Ph.d Research Scholar, Faculty of Education IASE, Osmania University, Hyderabad

### International Advisory Board

Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Bakfir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea,Romania	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	.....More

### Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Iresh Swami S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University,Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yalikal Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU,Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University,Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary,Play India Play,Meerut(U.P.)	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	



## GROWTH OF POLITICAL MODERNISATION IN MANIPUR (From Monarchical to Colonial Period)

**Md. Najir Khan**

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science,  
Manipur University, Canchipur.

### ABSTRACT

**P**olitical modernisation is a well known phenomenon in the present era of globalisation and fast changing world. A subject of intense desire for the people of developing or under-developed countries, it emerged after the end of Second World War. Gradually, political modernisation started touching various aspects of every society throughout the globe. Every country, region or province, anywhere in the world started experiencing the impact of this global phenomenon. In this new wave, Manipur no longer remains an exception. Today, the concepts of modernisation and political modernization have become inseparable part of the state as well as the society everywhere on this earth. So obsess modern human has become with these concepts that they couldn't think of any aspect of development without considering them".

**KEYWORDS** :Historical experience and Growth of Political modernisation.

### INTRODUCTION

Every aspect of human life is experiencing the influence of science and technology, modern democratic forms of government, expansion of education, economic development, increasing urbanization and industrialization, people consciousness and participation in the political system, improvement of transportation, increasing of per capita income, the role of mass-media and communication etc. These experiences can transform the traditional life of human being into an advanced form which is referred to as modernisation. It has many dimensions like political, social and economic and involves transformation of political, economic and social system on rational basis. The dynamic of political modernisation was



first experienced by the developed countries and gradually expanded to the people in the developing countries or new nations. In the entire world, the system of change came after the end of the Second World War in the field of political, social, economic and physical world. Meanwhile, these developing countries or new countries which became free from colonialism then came under neo-colonialism just after the end of colonialism. Adoption of the model of political modernisation of developed countries was considered as an initiative by these developing countries to free themselves from the vestige of neo-colonialism. For most of these countries, it is a process of quest to reach a comfortable life in human society within the physical environment.

This global phenomenon of

change in any field (political, social and economic) also gave many impacts to the society of Manipur. The effort is to see how the political development gradually formalized in the state.

### 1. Socio-Political and Cultural Transformation during the Monarchical period

The study of political modernisation process in Manipur, like the study of political modernisation worldwide, has to start by analyzing the historical background of socio-political and cultural transformation process of the state. Historical records points out that Manipur has a unique political system since the early period. It has a long and unique history telling the existence of one of the ancient and well established civilization in the world. Earlier, the people of Manipur followed both the cults of Sanamahi and the Vaishnavism as a religious practice. Monarchical system of government had been continuing since the early period in the state. At the time, the people considered “King” as the vice-regent of God. Therefore, the early Manipur was a theocratic state. There was no written constitution but they ruled under the models of Champlam Luptin (Customs and Conventions) of the land. In the ancient period, most of the political system of the world followed the monarchical system of government and it was so popular all over. Similarly, in Manipur, monarchical system continued till the early part of the post-colonial period. Historians obscured the regular history of Manipur before 33 A.D. It is found that the monarchical form of government started in 33 A.D in Manipur which was the era of beginning of social, political and cultural transformation of Manipur. It is estimated that 76 Kings ruled in Manipur till 1891. Later on, the British took over the sovereignty of Manipur and took the direct control of administration. Simultaneously, they put King Churachand as the titular monarch. Though recorded history starts from 33 A.D yet it is believed that some forms of transformation of the socio-political and cultural system of Manipur had started prior to that. This pre-33 A.D was known as the time of the pre-Meitei social system. The pre-Meitei groups were the Angom, the Luwang, the Mangang, the Khuman, the Sarangthem, the Leisangthem, the Chinglei, the HourouKonthang, the LokhaHowkha, the Chakpas, the Moirang, and the Urok-Usoi etc (Kamei, 1991). They migrated from the different directions but it is believed that they belong to Tibeto-Burman. The word Meitei is a combination of two words “Mei” and “Tai” which belongs to ancient China. According to Ibonghal Singh, original inhabitants of Manipur were the Kirtas (some tribes of Nagas). Later on, the word Meitei was formed by seven clans which were recognised by the historians since 33 A.D.

The seven clans were also the main principles of formation of socio-political and cultural system in the early Manipur. These seven clans were the Ningthoujas, the Angom, the Khuman, the Moirang, the Luwang, the Sarang Leishangthem and the Khaba Nganba (Singh, 1965). All these clans had their own respective King, population and territory (Singh, 1963). They were known as the seven independent Kingdoms. It is said that all the clans fought each other for acquiring more lands, wealth and political power. Thus, the conquest and annexation continued for a long time. Thereafter, Pakhangba ascended the throne of Ningthouja dynasty and conquered most of the other dynasties. Sometimes other clans rose war against the Ningthouja but it could manage and control the other clans.

A systematic socio-political and cultural system had been continuing since 33 A.D in Manipur in accordance with the historical records. It is indicated that monarchical form of government was started during the reign of Pakhangba. He was the first who ascended the throne of whole Manipur. His name was also known as Yabistha and belongs to Ningthouja dynasty. He ruled for 120 years according to the historical records. He was the longest ruler among the rulers of Manipur. The birth place of Pakhangaba is unknown to the historians. It is presumed that he came from a civilization which has superior culture because he had full of knowledge of the socio-political structure, administration, culture and religious

affairs. He introduced many reforms in the field of the socio-political, cultural and religious practices (Kamei, 1991).

During his reign King Pakhangba introduced the system of council of ministers. The council of ministers was known as the “Ningthou Pongba Tara” which means “Ten Regional Chieftains”. The ten ministers in the council had their own titles viz, 1) Nongthomba 2) Pukhramba 3) Wangkheilakpa 4) Khwailakpa 5) Yaiskullakpa 6) Khurailapa 7) Hyangloy Hanjaba 8) Chongthong Hanjaba 9) Naharuplakpa and 10) Ahalluplakpa. Another 64 Ministers were also appointed by the king to assist his work and to strengthen the Ningthou Pongba Tara. These ministers were known as the Phamdous. The Phamdous determined the laws and costumes of the Kingdom. Interestingly, a Minister, once appointed by the king, could not be removed at his own desire. This mode of practice was continued till 1891(Singh, 1976). This is a basic feature of socio-political growth in Manipur during the monarchy regime.

## 1.2. Political Institutions during the Monarchy system

It is accepted by the historians that political institutions in Manipur did not use written model of constitution rather they practiced the model of custom and conventions. Political institution and administration of Manipur flourished during the reign of Loiyamba. He was the first among the Kings of Manipur to introduce the written constitution. Loiyamba ascended the throne of Kangla in the beginning of 12th century (Kamei, 1991).

As already mentioned King Loiyamba introduced many written laws in Manipur which emerged collectively as a constitution. It was known as the “Loiyamba Sillen”. New laws and amendments were added from time to time to it. This system continued till 1891 (Singh, 1963). Besides, King Loiyamba also introduced many reforms in the field of politics, administrative, culture. He reorganized administrative divisions or Pana and Lallup. These were the two significant political institutions which were there in the pre as well as post colonial Manipur that needs understanding in the study of political modernisation growth in the state.

### Pana:

It was introduced for more effective administration of the king. Pana is similar with the modern forms of districts and state in India. It is recognised as an administrative division called “Pana” in Manipur. It is believed that Pana was participated by many families and clans. Pana was introduced by the Kings of Manipur but no one can say that by whom Pana was introduced in Manipur. T.C Hudson presumes that Pana introduced during the rule of King Koirengba (1508-1512) A.D. However, the system was modified by Loiyamba and he systematised administrative division of this kingdom by creating six Lups viz, Khongchaplup, Nongmailup, Angoumlup, Leicholakpa Tolong Khombalup, Liphambamlup and Khangjenglup. These lups helped in increasing and strengthen of the Pana system. The Pana system gave healthy cooperation in the administration of king during that time. It increased the power of the king which was decentralized among the lups. The administration runs smoothly on account of having Pana system during that time (Kamei, 1991).

### Lallup System:

Earlier in Manipur, many administrative systems were introduced for the protection and sovereignty of the kingdom. Lallup was also one of the administrative institutions. Lallup came into existence before the King Loiyamba but he made some reforms. The term Lallup means military organization which is described by T.C. Hudson. This organization also took responsible for the economic problem of the kingdom. The word Lallup is derived from two separate words viz, “Lal” which

means war and “Lup” which mean organization. Thus, Lallup means War Organization. According to some historians the term Lallup also stands for workers who work for the kingdom. They also asserted that those who work in the Lallup were paid nothing. Again, T.C Hudson, the then British Assistant Political Agent, also lamented that Lallup is the duty attending the King’s office (Loisang) for ten days and to remain 30 days. N. Sanajaoba gives different opinion which says, Lallup kaba was compulsory for 20 days for military services. Lallup was exempted specially for women, child below 17 years and physically challenged or illness people. Those persons who did not attain to the Lallup, not informing to the authority he would be punished. Lallup system was also imposed in the hills areas too. But its allegation was not accepted by the hill tribes. But the arguments came out that when the Burmese invaded in 1723, (4000) four thousands hilly people were joined the war under the command of Meitei king. It may be proved that Lallup also imposed in the hilly areas. However, L. Ibongohal described that Lallup system was abolished by Major Maxwell, the political Agent during the reign of Churanchand Singh. It was abolished in 1898-99 (Hudson, 1908).

### 1.3. British rule and Political status in Manipur

Manipur was an independent state before the outbreak of Anglo-Manipur war in 1891. But in the colonial period i.e. after the defeat of Manipur by the British in the Anglo-Manipur war and lost of its sovereignty, there was indeed a great change in the overall political set-up of the state. This new development in the political status of Manipur under the British rule can be sub-divided into three phases:

- 1) Regency period (1891-1907)
- 2) Durbar period (1907-1919)
- 3) Consciousness of democracy (1919-1947)

#### REGENCY PERIOD (1891-1907):

Regency period came with the end of the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891. After the war Manipur lost its sovereignty and the entire administration of the state came under the British. On 27th April 1891, the administration of Manipur came under the control of General Collet. Major Maxwell was appointed as the Chief Political Officer. Hereafter, the Chief Political Officer was assigned the charge of civil and political duties in the state. Meanwhile, a controversy came up in the British Parliament regarding the issues of annexation of Manipur. Some of the British officers preferred the annexation while some of them opposed. Lord Danby, Ex-Viceroy advocated that the annexation would worsen the Anglo-Manipur relations. His opinion was supported by the Indian people and British officials (Ibochoaba, 1988). However, annexation was conducted by Lord Lansdowne with the view that British have moral right of annexation of the state, he further explain that “I am an principle strongly opposed to needless annexation and I would have a scruples regard for the independent of nation state’s subordinates alliance with us, as long as they remain loyal and do nothing to forfeit” (Dena, 1991). Thus, the Viceroy had permitted to reestablish the native ruler in Manipur. So that prince Churachand Singh, at the age of five years was appointed the Raja of Manipur by the Lord Lansdowne the Viceroy of British. The Raja became the nominal head. But, all the civil and political powers were directly control by the British authority. The British authority did not allow appointing any Manipuri as a regent of Raja. Therefore, Major Maxwell was appointed as regent of the Raja. Thus, he took the charge of civil and political duty, till 1907 (Bimal & Dilip, 1985).

**Durbar period (1907-1919):**

With the Churachand Maharaj attaining maturity, the regency period came to an end. Subsequently, the tempo of administration in the princely state of Manipur went through a significant change with the introduction of Rules of the Management of Manipur in 1907. Simultaneously, it also saw a period known as Durbar period ensued from 1907 to 1919 (Sanajoaba, 1995).

On 15th May 1907, the British authority handed over the reign of the administration to the Raja when he became maturity. A Durbar was formed which was known as Manipur State Durbar. The Raja was the President but the post was nominal in nature. An English Indian Civil Service (I.C.S) officer was made Vice President, and other seven British officers were also appointed. Besides this, some Manipur member were also elected. Various portfolios of the administration were assigned among the members of the Manipur Durbar. The President of the Durbar was assigned the charge of education, medical, and state police, the Vice-President also took the charge of the hill tribes, finance and state revenue, and other portfolios were also assigned to the Vice President such as foreign affairs, and telegraph etc. In 1916, the administrative rule and laws of both valley and hills were amended. Perhaps, the amendment was conducted mainly to concentrate all the power of administration in the hand of British. According to Amendment, the Vice-President became the President of Manipur State Durbar. The Raja had no right in the hill administration. It is considered as an example of divide and rule policy of British. In this regard, Raja could not look after into affairs of the hilly people (Dena, 1990).

**Democratic Consciousness (1919-1947):**

Due to isolation of the hill administration from valley which is an example of divide and rule policy of British, the hill people were unsatisfied with the British authority regarding their administration in the hills. The first reaction in this direction came out from the Kuki group which came to be known as the Kuki Rebellion (1917-19). Hereafter, overall administration of Manipur was reorganized. Meanwhile, there were different opinions among the British officials about the hill administration. The political Agent of the time, W.A Cosgrave opined the following idea, "the whole administration of the hill tracts should be handed over to the exclusive management of the Political Agent". The Chief Commissioner of Assam desired the hill tribes to be brought under the governance of the Maharaja. The Maharaja, in turn, was to be guided by the advice of the Political Agent. The Political Agent further suggested to the Viceroy to set-up British sub-divisional officer at suitable places in the hill areas. The Chief Commissioner of Assam Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell visited the state in October 1919. In a Durbar meeting, he declared to grant the state financial concession to carry out the schemes for the welfare of the hills. Under these great schemes, three sub-divisions were established viz, Churachandpur, Tamenglong and Ukhrul. The charges of the Sub-Divisions were under the European Sub-Divisional Officers, who were under President of Manipur State Durbar (Dena, 1991). There were vast changes in the administration in the entire of colonial India i.e. at the Central Level, Provincial Level and Constituent parts of India which were brought by the Government of India Act 1919. The Central Legislative Assemblies were replaced by a bicameral legislature at the centre. The Central Legislative consisted of two parts i.e. Council of State (Upper Chamber 60 members) and the Legislative Assembly (Lower Chamber 148 members) (Gai, 1992). The introduction of Dyarchy (Dual Government) was the most significant changes at the Provincial level. The Executive Council was divided into two; a) the reserve subject which were in the hand of Governor and Executive Council and b) the transferred subject, which was controlled by the Council of Ministers. The Executive Council and Council of Ministers were elected through election and franchise. Thus, the Act of 1919, gave the pathway of having a responsible government in India. In the context of Manipur, the Government of India Act,

1919, granted a provision known as the "Rules for management of the state" in the hand of Maharaja assisted by the Durbar. Both criminal and civil cases were discharge by the Durbar in the plain. But in the hills, the administration was under the control of the President of the Durbar.

Meanwhile, a serious political unrest occurred among the hill tribes in the North East specially Naga Hills by the end of First World War and the beginning of Second World War. The Naga Club was formed in Nagaland which was the first political organization of the Naga tribes. In Manipur, Kuki rebellion (1917) and Zelaingrong movement occurred (1930-32). In 1934, the first socio-religious organization, Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha was formed under the President ship of Maharaj Churachand Singh. Later on, this organization became sovereign political organization in 1938 and renamed as Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha. The main objectives were to have a responsible government in Manipur and amalgamation of administration of the hill and valley areas of Manipur (Tarapot, 1997). The introduction of government of India Act 1935 abolished Dyarchy system at the Provincial level while keeping it at Central level. Autonomy was granted at the provincial level under this Act. There was a plan to establish federation of all Indian state. The charge of hill administration was given to the government of Assam under the government of India Act 1935 (Gai, 2002). The charge of hill administration was in the hand of the President of Durbar assisted by officers of Assam Civil Services when the issues of federation of Indian states in 1937 came, the administration of the hill tribes became an important matter. However, the Government of Assam declared that "if the state takes over the hills, it will both neglect and oppress the hill men, it will not be in the interest of the hill tribes to hand over the administration in his highness and the Durbar and it almost certain that it would not be to the interest of paramount power of Manipur, and inevitably have serious reaction in Manipur and among the hill tribes. British India's separation of plain and hill administration continued till the lapse of British paramount in 1947.

## CONCLUSION

Before the coming of the British, the political system of Manipur was the Monarchical system. It had no input from the environment though there were outputs from the administration but the king had the full of responsibility in the kingdom. The king administration was influenced by the Council of Ministers and people. In order to have more information from the people he attended the public functions, markets and religious place. Thus, the king's administration was so tight during the monarchical political system. The pages above described about the system of politics, social, culture and administration of Manipur during the monarchical period shortly. Thus, Political modernisation was growing slowly and systematically. It was not a clear picture of modern society during the monarchy system in Manipur. Above, Political system during the British regime was so rigid, not in a way of democratic way. They imposed feudal and colonial political system in the state. As a result, democratic ideas emerged to the people of Manipur.

## REFERENCES

- 1.Dena, L. (1991). History of Modern Manipur 1826-1949. New Delhi: Orbit Publishers (India), pp.71-134.
- 2.Dev, J. & Lahiri, K. (1985). Manipur Culture and Politics. New Delhi: Mittal Publications (India). P. 97.
- 3.Gai U. R. (2002). Indian Political System. Jalandhar: New Academic Publishing Company (India), pp.232-233.
- 4.Hudson, T. (1975). The Meitheis. Delhi: BR Publishing Corporation, P.85.
- 5.Ibochaoaba, K. (1988). Anglo-Manipuri Relations (1762-1947) in N. Sanajaoba (ed), Manipur Past and



Present, New Delhi: Mittal Publications (India), 1:97-98.

6.Jhaljit, S. R.K. (1965). A Short History of Manipur. Rajkumar publication Thangmeiband, Khuyathong, Imphal (India), P. 13.

7.Kamei, G. (1991). History of Manipur, Pre-colonial period. New Delhi: National Publishing House (India), (1), 69-70.

8.Pahanjoubam, T. (1997). Insurgency Movement in the North East India. Banglore: Vikash Publishing House (India), pp. 27-28.

9.Sanjaoba, N. (1995). Manipur Past and Present, New Delhi: Mittal Publication (India), (3), 29.

10.Singh, I. L. (1963). Introduction to Manipur. Manipur Sahitya Parishad, Imphal (India), pp.68-164.

11.Singh, I. N. (1976). Manipur Administration 1709-1942. New Delhi: Horizon Printers (India), P.47.



**Md. Najir Khan**

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Manipur University, Canchipur.

# Publish Research Article

## International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

### Associated and Indexed, India

- \* International Scientific Journal Consortium
- \* OPEN J-GATE

### Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org